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(57) Abstract: Disclosed is a family of P450 monooxygenases, each member of which regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin. The P450 monooxygenases find use in methods and formulations for making emamectin from avermectin. Also disclosed are methods for purifying the P450 monooxygenases of the invention, binding agents that specifically bind to the P450 monooxygenases of the invention, and genetically engineered cells that express the P450 monooxygenases of the invention. Also disclosed are ferrodoxins and ferredoxin reductases that are active with the P450 monooxygenases of the invention.

METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR MAKING EMAMECTIN

The invention relates to the field of agrochemicals, and in particular, to insecticides. More specifically, this invention relates to the derivatization of avermectin, particularly for the synthesis of emamectin.

Emamectin is a potent insecticide and controls many pests such as thrips, leafminers, and worm pests including alfalfa caterpillar, beet armyworm, cabbage looper, corn earworm, cutworms, diamondback moth, tobacco budworm, tomato fruitworm, and tomato pinworm. Emamectin (4"-deoxy-4"-epi-N-methylamino avermectin Bla/Blb) is described in U.S. Patent No. 4,874,749 and in Cvetovich, R.J. *et al.*, *J. Organic Chem.* **59**:7704-7708, 1994 (as MK-244).

U.S. Patent No. 5,288,710 describes salts of emamectin that are especially valuable agrochemically. These salts of emamectin are valuable pesticides, especially for combating insects and representatives of the order Acarina. Some pests for which emamectin is useful in combating are listed in European Patent Application EP-A 736,252.

One drawback to the use of emamectin is the difficulty of its synthesis from avermectin. This is due to the first step of the process, which is the most costly and time-consuming step of producing emamectin, in which the 4"-carbinol group of avermectin must be oxidized to a ketone. The oxidation of the 4"-carbinol group is problematic due to the presence of two other hydroxyl groups on the molecule that must be chemically protected before oxidation and deprotected after oxidation. Thus, this first step, significantly increases the overall cost and time of producing emamectin from avermectin.

Because of the efficacy and potency of emamectin as an insecticide, there is a need to develop a cost and time effective method and/or reagent for regioselectively oxidizing the 4"-carbinol group of avermectin to produce 4"-keto-avermectin, which is a necessary intermediate for producing emamectin from avermectin.

The invention provides a novel family of P450 monooxygenases, each member of which is able to regioselectively oxidize the 4"-carbinol group of unprotected avermectin, thereby resulting in a cheap, effective method to produce 4"-keto-avermectin, a necessary intermediate in the production of emamectin. The invention allows elimination of the costly, time-consuming steps of (1) chemically protecting the two other hydroxyl groups on the avermectin

molecule prior to oxidation of the 4"-carbinol group that must be chemically protected before oxidation; and (2) chemically deprotecting these two other hydroxyl groups after oxidation. The invention thus provides reagents and methods for significantly reducing the overall cost of producing emamectin from avermectin.

- Accordingly, in one aspect, the invention provides a purified nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide that exhibits an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase and regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin.
- In a specific embodiment, the invention relates to an purified nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide that exhibits an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase and regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin, which polypeptide is substantially similar, and preferably has between at least 50%, and 99% amino acid sequence identity to the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2, with each individual number within this range of between 50% and 99% also being part of the invention.
- In a further specific embodiment, the invention relates to an purified nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide that exhibits an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase and regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin, which polypeptide is immunologically reactive with antibodies raised against a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2.
- The invention further provides a purified nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence
 - a) as given in SEQ ID NO:1;
 - b) having substantial similarity to (a);
 - c) capable of hybridizing to (a) or the complement thereof;
 - d) capable of hybridizing to a nucleic acid molecule comprising 50 to 200 or more consecutive nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence given in SEQ ID NO:1, or the complement thereof;
 - e) complementary to (a), (b) or (c);
 - f) which is the reverse complement of (a), (b) or (c), or

g) which is a functional part of (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) or (f) encoding a polypeptide that still exhibits an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase and regioselectively oxidizes averment to 4"-keto-averment.

- In a specific embodiment, the invention relates to a purified nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide that exhibits an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase and regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin, which polypeptide is substantially similar, and preferably has at least between 60%, and 99% amino acid sequence identity to the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:30, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO:34, or SEQ ID NO:95, with each individual number within this range of between 60% and 99% also being part of the invention.
- In a further specific embodiment, the invention relates to an purified nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide that exhibits an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase and regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin, which polypeptide is immunologically reactive with antibodies raised against a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:30, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO:34, or SEQ ID NO:95.
- The invention further provides a purified nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence
 - a) as given in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO:31, SEQ ID NO:33, or SEQ ID NO:94;
 - b) having substantial similarity to (a);
 - c) capable of hybridizing to (a) or the complement thereof;
 - d) capable of hybridizing to a nucleic acid molecule comprising 50 to 200 or more consecutive nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence given in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID

NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO:31, SEQ ID NO:33, or SEQ ID NO:94 or the complement thereof;

- e) complementary to (a), (b) or (c);
- f) which is the reverse complement of (a), (b) or (c); or
- g) which is a functional part of (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) or (f) encoding a polypeptide that still exhibits an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase and regioselectively oxidizes avermeetin to 4"-keto-avermeetin.

In certain embodiments, the nucleic acid molecule comprises or consists essentially of a nucleic acid sequence that is at least between 66%, and 99% identical to SEQ ID NO:1, with each individual number within this range of between 66%, and 99% also being part of the invention..

- In certain embodiments, the nucleic acid molecule comprises or consists essentially of a nucleic acid sequence that is at least between 70%, and 99% identical to SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO:31, SEQ ID NO:33, or SEQ ID NO:94, with each individual number within this range of between 70%, and 99% also being part of the invention..
- In some embodiments, the nucleic acid molecule comprises or consists essentially of a nucleic acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO:31, SEQ ID NO:33, or SEQ ID NO:94.
- In certain embodiments, the nucleic acid molecule comprises or consists essentially of a nucleic acid sequence that is at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO:31, SEQ ID NO:33, or SEQ ID NO:94.

In certain embodiments, the nucleic acid molecule comprises or consists essentially of a nucleic acid sequence that is at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO:31, SEQ ID NO:33, or SEQ ID NO:94.

- In some embodiments, the nucleic acid molecule comprises or consists essentially of a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO:31, SEQ ID NO:33, and SEQ ID NO:94.
- In particular embodiments, the nucleic acid molecule is isolated from a *Streptomyces* strain. In certain embodiments, the *Streptomyces* strain is selected from the group consisting of *Streptomyces tubercidicus*, *Streptomyces lydicus*, *Streptomyces platensis*, *Streptomyces chattanoogensis*, *Streptomyces kasugaensis*, and *Streptomyces rimosus* and *Streptomyces albofaciens*..
- In some embodiments of this aspect, the nucleic acid molecule further comprises a nucleic acid sequence encoding a tag which is linked to the P450 monooxygenase via a covalent bond. In certain embodiments, the tag is selected from the group consisting of a His tag, a GST tag, an HA tag, a HSV tag, a Myc-tag, and VSV-G-Tag.
- In another aspect, the invention provides a purified polypeptide that exhibits an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase and regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin.
- In some embodiments, the polypeptide comprises or consists essentially of an amino acid sequence that is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule
 - a) as given in SEQ ID NO:1 or the complement thereof;
 - b) having substantial similarity to (a);
 - c) capable of hybridizing to (a) or the complement thereof;
 - d) capable of hybridizing to a nucleic acid molecule comprising 50 to 200 or more consecutive nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence given in SEQ ID NO:1, or the complement thereof;
 - e) complementary to (a), (b) or (c);

- f) which is the reverse complement of (a), (b) or (c); or.
- g) which is a functional part of (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) or (f) encoding a polypeptide that still exhibits an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase and regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin.

In some embodiments, the polypeptide comprises or consists essentially of an amino acid sequence that is between at least 50%, and 99% identical to SEQ ID NO:2, with each individual number within this range of between 50% and 99% also being part of the invention..

- In some embodiments, the polypeptide comprises or consists essentially of an amino acid sequence that is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule
 - a) as given in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO:31, SEQ ID NO:33, or SEQ ID NO:94 or the complement thereof;
 - b) having substantial similarity to (a);
 - c) capable of hybridizing to (a) or the complement thereof;
 - d) capable of hybridizing to a nucleic acid molecule comprising 50 to 200 or more consecutive nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence given in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO:31, SEQ ID NO:33, or SEQ ID NO:94 or the complement thereof, or the complement thereof;
 - e) complementary to (a), (b) or (c);
 - f) which is the reverse complement of (a), (b) or (c); or
 - g) which is a functional part of (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) or (f) encoding a polypeptide that still exhibits an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase and regioselectively oxidizes averment to 4"-keto-averment.
- In some embodiments, the P450 monooxygenase comprises or consists essentially of an amino acid sequence that is between at least 60%, and 99% identical to SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:14, SEO ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEO ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:22, SEO ID NO:24,

SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:30, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO:34, or SEQ ID NO:95, with each individual number within this range of between 60% and 99% also being part of the invention..

- In certain embodiments, the P450 monooxygenase comprises or consists essentially of an amino acid sequence that is at least 70% identical to SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:30, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO:34, or SEQ ID NO:95.
- In some embodiments, the P450 monooxygenase comprises or consists essentially of an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:30, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO:34, or SEQ ID NO:95.
- In some embodiments, the P450 monooxygenase comprises or consists essentially of an amino acid sequence that is at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:30, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO:34, or SEQ ID NO:95.
- In certain embodiments, the P450 monooxygenase comprises or consists essentially of an amino acid sequence that is at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:30, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO:34, or SEQ ID NO:95.
- In some embodiments of this aspect of the invention, the P450 monooxygenase comprises or consists essentially of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:30, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO:34, and SEQ ID NO:95.
- In certain embodiments, the polypeptide according to the invention exhibiting an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase further comprises a tag. In some

embodiments, the tag is selected from the group consisting of a His tag, a GST tag, an HA tag, a HSV tag, a Myc-tag, and VSV-G-Tag.

- In another aspect, the invention provides a binding agent that specifically binds to a polypeptide according to the invention exhibiting an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase that regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin. In some embodiments, the binding agent is an antibody. In certain embodiments, the antibody is a polyclonal antibody or a monoclonal antibody.
- In yet another aspect, the invention provides a family of P450 monooxygenase polypeptides, wherein each member of the family regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin.
- In certain embodiments, each member of the family comprises or consists essentially of an amino acid sequence that is between at least 50%, and 99% identical to SEQ ID NO:2, with each individual number within this range of between 50% and 99% also being part of the invention.
- In certain embodiments, each member of the family comprises or consists essentially of an amino acid sequence that is between at least 60%, and 99% identical to SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:30, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO:34, or SEQ ID NO:95, with each individual number within this range of between 60% and 99% also being part of the invention..
- In some embodiments, each member of the family comprises or consists essentially of an amino acid sequence that is at least 70% identical to SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:30, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO:34, or SEQ ID NO:95.
- In certain embodiments, each member of the family comprises or consists essentially of an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:30, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO:34, or SEQ ID NO:95. In

some embodiments, each member of the family comprises or consists essentially of an amino acid sequence that is at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:30, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO:34, or SEQ ID NO:95.

- In certain embodiments, each member of the family comprises or consists essentially of an amino acid sequence that is at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:30, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO:34, or SEQ ID NO:95.
- In some embodiments of this aspect of the invention, each member of the family comprises or consists essentially of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:30, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO:34, and SEQ ID NO:95.
- In still another aspect, the invention provides a cell genetically engineered to comprise a nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide which exhibits an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase that regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin.
- In some embodiments, the nucleic acid molecule is positioned for expression in the cell. In certain embodiments, the cell further comprises a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide according to the invention exhibiting an enzymatic activity of a ferredoxin protein.
- In some embodiments, the cell further comprises a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide according to the invention exhibiting an enzymatic activity of a ferredoxin reductase protein.
- In certain embodiments, the cell is a genetically engineered *Streptomyces* strain. In certain embodiments, the cell is a genetically engineered *Streptomyces lividans* strain. In particular embodiments, the genetically engineered *Streptomyces lividans* strain has NRRL Designation No. B-30478. In some embodiments, the cell is a genetically engineered *Pseudomonas* strain. In some embodiments, the cell is a genetically engineered

Pseudomonas putida strain. In certain embodiments, the genetically engineered Pseudomonas putida strain has NRRL Designation No. B-30479. In some embodiments, the cell is a genetically engineered Escherichia coli strain.

- In another aspect, the invention provides a purified nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide according to the invention exhibiting an enzymatic activity of a ferredoxin, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is isolated from a *Streptomyces* strain comprising a P450 monooxygenase that regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin.
- In a specific embodiment, the invention relates to an purified nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide that exhibits the enzymatic activity of a ferredoxin, which polypeptide is substantially similar, and preferably has between at least 80%, and 99% amino acid sequence identity to the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:36 or SEQ ID NO: 38, with each individual number within this range of between 80% and 99% also being part of the invention.
- In still a further specific embodiment, the invention relates to an purified nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide that exhibits the enzymatic activity of a ferredoxin, which polypeptide is immunologically reactive with antibodies raised against a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 36 or SEQ ID NO: 38.
- The invention further provides a purified nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence
 - a) as given in SEQ ID NO:35 or SEQ ID NO: 37;
 - b) having substantial similarity to (a);
 - c) capable of hybridizing to (a) or the complement thereof;
 - d) capable of hybridizing to a nucleic acid molecule comprising 50 to 200 or more consecutive nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 35 or SEQ ID NO: 37, or the complement thereof;
 - e) complementary to (a), (b) or (c);
 - f) which is the reverse complement of (a), (b) or (c); or
 - g) which is a functional part of (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) or (f) encoding a polypeptide that still exhibits an enzymatic activity of a ferredoxin and regional regional exhibits avermeetin to 4"-keto-avermeetin.

In certain embodiments, the nucleic acid molecule encoding a ferredoxin of the invention comprises or consists essentially of a nucleic acid sequence that is at least 81% identical to SEQ ID NO:35 or SEQ ID NO:37. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid molecule comprises or consists essentially of a nucleic acid sequence that is at least 85%, or at least 90%, or at least 95%, or at least 99% identical to SEQ ID NO:35 or SEQ ID NO:37. In certain embodiments, the nucleic acid molecule encoding a ferredoxin of the invention comprises or consists essentially of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:35 or SEQ ID NO:37.

- In yet another aspect, the invention provides a purified ferredoxin protein, wherein the ferredoxin protein is isolated from a *Streptomyces* strain comprising a P450 monooxygenase that regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin. In certain embodiments, the ferredoxin of the invention comprises or consists essentially of an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO:36 or SEQ ID NO:38. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid molecule comprises or consists essentially of an amino acid sequence that is at least 85%, or at least 90%, or at least 95%, or at least 99% identical to SEQ ID NO:36 or SEQ ID NO:38.
- In particular embodiments, the ferredoxin of the invention comprises or consists essentially of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:36 or SEQ ID NO:38.
- In another aspect, the invention provides a purified nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide according to the invention exhibiting an enzymatic activity of a ferredoxin reductase, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is isolated from a *Streptomyces* strain comprising a P450 monooxygenase that regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin.
- In certain embodiments, the nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide according to the invention exhibiting an enzymatic activity of a ferredoxin reductase comprises or consists essentially of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:98, SEQ ID NO:100, SEQ ID NO:102, or SEQ ID NO:104.
- In yet another aspect, the invention provides a purified polypeptide exhibiting an enzymatic activity of a ferredoxin reductase protein, wherein the said polypeptide is isolated from a *Streptomyces* strain comprising a P450 monooxygenase that regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin. In certain embodiments, the

polypeptide of the invention comprises or consists essentially of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:99, SEQ ID NO:101, SEQ ID NO:103, or SEQ ID NO:105.

 In another aspect, the invention provides a process for the preparation a compound of the formula

in which

R₁-R₉ represent, independently of each other hydrogen or a substituent;

m is 0, 1 or 2;

n is 0, 1, 2 or 3; and

the bonds marked with A, B, C, D, E and F indicate, independently of each other, that two adjacent carbon atoms are connected by a double bond, a single bond, a single bond and a epoxide bridge of the formula

, or a single bond and a methylene bridge of the formula

including, where applicable, an E/Z isomer, a mixture of E/Z isomers, and/or a tautomer thereof, in each case in free form or in salt form, which process comprises

1) bringing a compound of the formula

$$\begin{array}{c} & & & \\ & &$$

wherein

R₁-R₇, m, n, A, B, C, D, E and F have the same meanings as given for formula (I) above, into contact with a polypeptide according to the invention that is capable of regioselectively oxidising the alcohol at position 4" in order to form a compound of the formula

$$\begin{array}{c} & & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & &$$

in which R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, R₆, R₇, m, n, A, B, C, D, E and F have the meanings given for formula (I); and

2) reacting the compound of the formula (III) with an amine of the formula $HN(R_8)R_9$, wherein R_8 and R_9 have the same meanings as given for formula (I), and which is known, in the presence of a reducing agent;

and, in each case, if desired, converting a compound of formula (I) obtainable in accordance with the process or by another method, or an E/Z isomer or tautomer thereof, in each case in free form or in salt form, into a different compound of formula (I) or an E/Z isomer or tautomer thereof, in each case in free form or in salt form, separating a mixture of E/Z isomers obtainable in accordance with the process and isolating the desired isomer, and/or converting a free compound of formula (I) obtainable in accordance with the process or by another method, or an E/Z isomer or tautomer thereof, into a salt or converting a salt, obtainable in accordance with the process or by another method, of a compound of formula (I) or of an E/Z isomer or tautomer thereof into the free compound of formula (I) or an E/Z isomer or tautomer thereof or into a different salt.

In some embodiments, the compound of formula (II) is further brought into contact with a polypeptide according to the invention exhibiting an enzymatic activity of a

ferredoxin. In certain embodiments, the compound of formula (II) is further brought into contact with a polypeptide according to the invention exhibiting an enzymatic activity of a ferredoxin reductase. In some embodiments, the compound of formula (II) is further brought into contact with a reducing agent (e.g., NADH or NADPH).

In still a further embodiment, the invention provides a process for the preparation of a compound of the formula

in which R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , R_6 , R_7 , m, n, A, B, C, D, E and F have the meanings given for formula (I) of claim 1,

which process comprises

1) bringing a compound of the formula

wherein

R₁-R₇, m, n, A, B, C, D, E and F have the same meanings as given for formula (I) above, into contact with a polypeptide according to the invention that is capable of regioselectively oxidising the alcohol at position 4", maintaining said contact for a time sufficient for the oxidation reaction to occur and isolating and purifying the compound of formula (II).

In yet another embodiment, the invention provides a process according to the invention for the preparation of a compound of the formula (I), in which

n is 1;

m is 1;

A is a double bond;

B is single bond or a double bond,

C is a double bond,

D is a single bond,

E is a double bond,

F is a double bond; or a single bond and a epoxy bridge; or a single bond and a methylene bridge;

 R_1 , R_2 and R_3 are H;

```
R_4 is methyl; R_5 	ext{ is } C_1-C_{10}-alkyl, C_3-C_8-cycloalkyl or C_2-C_{10}-alkenyl; R_6 	ext{ is } H; R_7 	ext{ is } OH; R_8 	ext{ and } R_9 	ext{ are independently of each other } H; C_1-C_{10}-alkyl 	ext{ or } C_1-C_{10}-acyl; 	ext{ or together form } -(CH_2)_q-; 	ext{ and } q 	ext{ is } 4,5 	ext{ or } 6.
```

In still another embodiment, the invention provides a process according to the invention for the preparation of a compound of the formula (I), in which

```
n is 1;
m is 1;
A, B, C, E and F are double bonds;
D is a single bond;
R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, and R<sub>3</sub> are H;
R<sub>4</sub> is methyl;
R<sub>5</sub> is s-butyl or isopropyl;
R<sub>6</sub> is H;
R<sub>7</sub> is OH;
R<sub>8</sub> is methyl
R<sub>9</sub> is H.
```

- In still another embodiment, the invention provides a process according to the invention for the preparation of 4''-deoxy-4''-N-methylamino avermectin B_{1a}/B_{1b} benzoate salt.
- In another aspect, the invention provides a method for making emamectin. The method comprises adding a polypeptide according to the invention exhibiting an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase that regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin to a reaction mixture comprising avermectin and incubating the reaction mixture under conditions that allow the polypeptide to regioselectively oxidize avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin. In some embodiments, the reaction mixture further comprises a polypeptide according to the invention exhibiting an enzymatic activity of a ferredoxin. In

certain embodiments, the reaction mixture further comprises a polypeptide according to the invention exhibiting an enzymatic activity of a ferredoxin reductase. In some embodiments, the reaction mixture further comprises a reducing agent (e.g., NADH or NADPH).

- In still another aspect, the invention provides a formulation for making a compound of formula (I) comprising a polypeptide according to the invention exhibiting a P450 monooxygenase activity that is capable of regioselectively oxidising the alcohol at position 4" in order to form a compound of formula (II). In some embodiments, the formulation further comprises a polypeptide according to the invention exhibiting an enzymatic activity of a ferredoxin (e.g., a ferredoxin from cell or strain from which the P450 monooxygenase was isolated or derived).
- In still another aspect, the invention provides a formulation for making emamectin comprising a P450 monooxygenase that regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin. In some embodiments, the formulation further comprises a ferredoxin (e.g., a ferredoxin from cell or strain from which the P450 monooxygenase was isolated or derived).
- In certain embodiments, the formulation further comprises a polypeptide according to the invention exhibiting an enzymatic activity of a ferredoxin reductase (e.g., a ferredoxin from cell or strain from which the P450 monooxygenase was isolated or derived). In some embodiments, the formulation further comprises a reducing agent (e.g., NADH or NADPH).

Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 is a diagrammatic representation showing a map of plasmid pTBBKA. Recognition sites by the indicated restriction endonucleases are shown, along with the location of the site in the nucleotide sequence of the plasmid. Also shown are genes (e.g., kanamycin resistance "KanR"), and other functional aspects (e.g., Tip promoter) contained in the plasmid.

Figure 2 is a diagrammatic representation showing a map of plasmid pTUA1A. Recognition sites by the indicated restriction endonucleases are shown, along with the

location of the site in the nucleotide sequence of the plasmid. Also shown are genes (e.g., ampicillin resistance "AmpR") and other functional aspects (e.g., Tip promoter) contained in the plasmid.

Figure 3 is a diagrammatic representation showing a map of plasmid pRK-ema1/fd233. This plasmid was derived by ligating a BglII fragment containing the ema1 and fd233 genes organized on a single transcriptional unit into the BglII site of the broad host-range plasmid pRK290. The ema1/fd233 genes are expressed by the tac promoter (Ptac), and they are followed by the tac terminator (Ttac). Restriction endonuclease recognition sites shown are BglII "B"; EcoRI "E"; PacI "Pc"; PmeI "Pm"; and SalI "S."

The present invention provides a family of polypeptides which exhibit an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenases and are capable of regioselectively oxidizing the alcohol at position 4" of a compound of formular (II) such as avermeetin in order to produce a compound of the formula (III), but especially 4"-keto-avermeetin.

More particularly, the family of polypeptides according to the invention may be used in a process for the preparation a compound of the formula

in which

R₁-R₉ represent, independently of each other hydrogen or a substituent;

m is 0, 1 or 2;

n is 0, 1, 2 or 3; and

the bonds marked with A, B, C, D, E and F indicate, independently of each other, that two adjacent carbon atoms are connected by a double bond, a single bond, a single bond and a epoxide bridge of the formula

, or a single bond and a methylene bridge of the formula

including, where applicable, an E/Z isomer, a mixture of E/Z isomers, and/or a tautomer thereof, in each case in free form or in salt form, which process comprises

1) bringing a compound of the formula

$$\begin{array}{c} & & & \\ & &$$

wherein

R₁-R₇, m, n, A, B, C, D, E and F have the same meanings as given for formula (I) above,

into contact with a polypeptide according to the invention which exhibits an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenases and is capable of regioselectively oxidizing the alcohol at position 4" of formular (II) in order to produce a compound of the formula (III)

in which R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, R₆, R₇, m, n, A, B, C, D, E and F have the meanings given for formula (I); and

2) reacting the compound of the formula (III) with an amine of the formula $HN(R_8)R_9$,

wherein R₈ and R₉ have the same meanings as given for formula (I), and which is known, in the presence of a reducing agent; and, in each case, if desired, converting a compound of formula (I) obtainable in accordance with the process or by another method, or an E/Z isomer or tautomer thereof, in each case in free form or in salt form, into a different compound of formula (I) or an E/Z isomer or tautomer thereof, in each case in free form or in salt form, separating a mixture of E/Z isomers obtainable in accordance with the process and isolating the desired isomer, and/or converting a free compound of formula (I) obtainable in accordance with the process or by another method, or an E/Z isomer or tautomer thereof, into a salt or converting a salt, obtainable in accordance with the process or by another method, of a compound of formula (I) or of an E/Z isomer or tautomer thereof into the free compound of formula (I) or an E/Z isomer or tautomer thereof or into a different salt.

Methods of synthesis for the compounds of formula (I) are described in the literature. It has been found, however, that the processes known in the literature cause considerable problems during production basically on account of the low yields and the tedious procedures which have to be used. Accordingly, the known processes are not satisfactory in that respect, giving rise to the need to make available improved preparation processes for those compounds.

The compounds (I), (II) and (III) may be in the form of tautomers. Accordingly, herein-before and hereinafter, where appropriate the compounds (I), (II) and (III) are to be understood to include corresponding tautomers, even if the latter are not specifically mentioned in each case.

The compounds (I), (II) and (III) are capable of forming acid addition salts. Those salts are formed, for example, with strong inorganic acids, such as mineral acids, for example perchloric acid, sulfuric acid, nitric acid, nitrous acid, a phosphoric acid or a hydrohalic acid, with strong organic carboxylic acids, such as unsubstituted or substituted, for example halosubstituted, C1-C4alkanecarboxylic acids, for example acetic acid, saturated or unsaturated dicarboxylic acids, for example oxalic, malonic, succinic, maleic, fumaric or phthalic acid, hydroxycarboxylic acids, for example ascorbic, lactic, malic, tartaric or citric acid, or benzoic acid, or with organic sulfonic acids, such as unsubstituted or substituted, for example halosubstituted, C₁-C₄alkane- or aryl-sulfonic acids, for example methane- or p-toluene-sulfonic acid. Furthermore, compounds of formula (I), (II) and (III) having at least one acidic group are capable of forming salts with bases. Suitable salts with bases are, for example, metal salts, such as alkali metal or alkaline earth metal salts, for example sodium, potassium or magnesium salts, or salts with ammonia or an organic amine, such as morpholine, piperidine, pyrrolidine, a mono-, di- or tri-lower alkylamine, for example ethyl-, diethyl-, triethyl- or dimethyl-propyl-amine, or a mono-, di- or tri-hydroxy-lower alkylamine, for example mono-, di- or tri-ethanolamine. In addition, corresponding internal salts may also be formed. Preference is given within the scope of the invention to agrochemically advantageous salts. In view of the close relationship between the compounds of formula (I), (II) and (III) in free form and in the form of their salts, any reference hereinbefore or hereinafter to the free compounds of formula (I), (II) and (III) or to their respective salts is to be understood as including also the corresponding salts or the free compounds of formula (I), (II) and (III), where appropriate and

expedient. The same applies in the case of tautomers of compounds of formula (I), (II) and (III) and the salts thereof. The free form is generally preferred in each case.

Preferred within the scope of this invention is a process for the preparation of compounds of the formula (I), in which

```
n is 1;
m is 1;
A is a double bond;
B is single bond or a double bond,
C is a double bond,
D is a single bond,
E is a double bond,
F is a double bond; or a single bond and a epoxiy bridge; or a single bond and a
  methylene bridge;
R_1, R_2 and R_3 are H;
R<sub>4</sub> is methyl;
R_5 is C_1-C_{10}-alkyl, C_3-C_8-cycloalkyl or C_2-C_{10}-alkenyl;
R_6 is H;
R<sub>7</sub> is OH;
R<sub>8</sub> and R<sub>9</sub> are independently of each other H; C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>-alkyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>-acyl; or together
    form -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>q</sub>-; and
  q is 4, 5 or 6.
```

Especially preferred within the scope of this invention is a process for the preparation of a compound of the formula (I) in which

```
n is 1;
m is 1;
A, B, C, E and F are double bonds;
D is a single bond;
R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, and R<sub>3</sub> are H;
R<sub>4</sub> is methyl;
R<sub>5</sub> is s-butyl or isopropyl;
```

R₆ is H;

R₇ is OH;

R₈ is methyl

R₉ is H.

Very especially preferred is a process for the preparation of emamectin, more particularly the benzoate salt of emamectin. Emamectin is a mixture of 4"-deoxy-4"-N-methylamino avermectin B_{1a}/B_{1b} and is described in US-P-4,4874,749 and as MK-244 in Journal of Organic Chemistry, Vol. <u>59</u> (1994), 7704-7708. Salts of emamectin that are especially valuable agrochemically are described in US-P-5,288,710. Each member of this family of peptides exhibiting an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenases as described hereinbefore is able to oxidize unprotected avermectin regioselectively at position 4", thus opening a new and more economical route for the production of emamectin.

The family members each catalyze the following reaction:

$$A''$$
-keto-avermectin A'' -keto-avermectin A'' -Recomplete A'' -Recomp

Accordingly, the invention provides a purified nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide that exhibits an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase and is capable of regioselectively oxidizing the alcohol at position 4" of a compound of formular (II) such as avermectin in order to produce a compound of formula (III), but especially 4"-keto-avermectin.

In particular, the invention provides a purified nucleic acid molecule encoding a P450 monooxygenase that regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin. A "nucleic

acid molecule" refers to single-stranded or double-stranded polynucleotides, such as deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA), ribonucleic acid (RNA), or analogs of either DNA or RNA.

The invention also provides a purified polypeptide that exhibits an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase and is capable of regionselectively oxidizing the alcohol at position 4" of a compound of formular (II) such as avermeetin in order to produce a compound of formula (III), but especially 4"-keto-avermeetin.

In particular, the invention also provides a purified P450 monooxygenase that regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin.

As used herein, by "purified" is meant a nucleic acid molecule or polypeptide (e.g., an enzyme or antibody) that has been separated from components which naturally accompany it. An example of such a nucleotide sequence or segment of interest "purified" from a source, would be nucleotide sequence or segment that is excised or removed from said source by chemical means, e.g., by the use of restriction endonucleases, so that it can be further manipulated, e.g., amplified, for use in the invention, by the methodology of genetic engineering. Such a nucleotide sequence or segment is commonly referred to as "recombinant.". In one specific aspect, the purified nucleic acid molecule may be separated from nucleotide sequences, such as promoter or enhancer sequences, that flank the nucleic acid molecule as it naturally occurs in the chromosome.

In the case of a protein or a polypeptide, the purified protein and polypeptide, respectively, is separated from components, such as other proteins or fragments of cell membrane, that accompany it in the cell. Of course, those of ordinary skill in molecular biology will understand that water, buffers, and other small molecules may additionally be present in a purified nucleic acid molecule or purified protein preparation. A purified nucleic acid molecule or purified polypeptide (e.g., enzyme) of the invention that is at least 95% by weight, or at least 98% by weight, or at least 99% by weight, or 100% by weight free of components which naturally accompany the nucleic acid molecule or polypeptide.

According to the invention, a purified nucleic acid molecule may be generated, for example, by excising the nucleic acid molecule from the chromosome. It may then be ligated into an expression plasmid. Other methods for generating a purified nucleic acid molecule encoding a P450 monooxygenase of the invention are available and include, without limitation, artificial synthesis of the nucleic acid molecule on a nucleic acid synthesizer.

Similarly, a purified P450 monooxygenase of the invention may be generated, for example, by recombinant expression of a nucleic acid molecule encoding the P450 monooxygenase in a cell in which the P450 monooxygenase does not naturally occur. Of course, other methods for obtaining a purified P450 monooxygenase of the invention include, without limitation, artificial synthesis of the P450 monooxygenase on a polypeptide synthesizer and isolation of the P450 monooxygenase from a cell in which it naturally occurs using, *e.g.*, an antibody that specifically binds the P450 monooxygenase.

Biotransformations of secondary alcohols to ketones by *Streptomyces* bacteria are known to be catalyzed by dehydrogenases or oxidases. However, prior to the present discovery of the cytochrome P450 monooxygenase from *Streptomyces tubercidicus* strain R-922 responsible for the regioselective oxidation of avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin, no experimental data of another cytochrome P450 monooxygenase from *Streptomyces* to oxidize a secondary alcohol to a ketone had been reported.

According to some embodiments of the invention, the nucleic acid molecule and/or the polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule are isolated from a *Streptomyces* strain. Thus, the nucleic acid molecule (or polypeptide encoded thereby) may be isolated from, without limitation, *Streptomyces tubercidicus*, *Streptomyces lydicus*, *Streptomyces platensis*, *Streptomyces chattanoogensis*, *Streptomyces kasugaensis*, *Streptomyces rimosus*, and *Streptomyces albofaciens*.

As mentioned above and described in more detail below, an entire family of polypeptides exhibiting an enzymatic activity of P450 monooxygenases capable of regioselectively oxidizing avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin are provided herein. All of these family members are related by at least 60% identity at the amino acid level. A useful nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide of the invention exhibiting an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase comprises or consists essentially of a nucleic acid sequence that is at least 70% identical to SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO:31, SEQ ID NO:33, or SEQ ID NO:94. In certain embodiments, the nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide of the invention exhibiting an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase

comprises or consists essentially of a nucleic acid sequence that is at least 80% identical; or at least 85% identical; or at least 95% identical; or at least 98% identical to SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO:31, SEQ ID NO:33, or SEQ ID NO:94.

Similarly, the invention provides a purified polypeptide exhibiting an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase that regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin which, in some embodiments, comprises or consists essentially of an amino acid sequence that is at least 60% identical to SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:30, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO:34, or SEQ ID NO:95. In certain embodiments, the purified polypeptide of the invention exhibiting an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase comprises or consists essentially of an amino acid sequence that is at least 70% identical; or at least 80% identical; or at least 90% identical; or at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:30, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO:34, or SEQ ID NO:95.

In some embodiments, the nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide of the invention exhibiting an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase comprises or consists essentially of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO:31, SEQ ID NO:33, or SEQ ID NO:94. Similarly, the purified polypeptide of the invention exhibiting an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase, in some embodiments, comprises or consists essentially of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:30, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO:34, or SEQ ID NO:95.

To describe the sequence relationships between two or more nucleic acids or polynucleotides the following terms are used: (a) "reference sequence", (b) "comparison window", (c) "sequence identity", (d) "percentage of sequence identity", and (e) "substantial identity".

- (a) As used herein, "reference sequence" is a defined sequence used as a basis for sequence comparison. A reference sequence may be a subset or the entirety of a specified sequence; for example, as a segment of a full length cDNA or gene sequence, or the complete cDNA or gene sequence.
- (b) As used herein, "comparison window" makes reference to a contiguous and specified segment of a polynucleotide sequence, wherein the polynucleotide sequence in the comparison window may comprise additions or deletions (i.e., gaps) compared to the reference sequence (which does not comprise additions or deletions) for optimal alignment of the two sequences. Generally, the comparison window is at least 20 contiguous nucleotides in length, and optionally can be 30, 40, 50, 100, or longer. Those of skill in the art understand that to avoid a high similarity to a reference sequence due to inclusion of gaps in the polynucleotide sequence a gap penalty is typically introduced and is subtracted from the number of matches.

Methods of alignment of sequences for comparison are well known in the art. Thus, the determination of percent identity between any two sequences can be accomplished using a mathematical algorithm. Preferred, non-limiting examples of such mathematical algorithms are the algorithm of Myers and Miller, 1988; the local homology algorithm of Smith et al. 1981; the homology alignment algorithm of Needleman and Wunsch 1970; the search-for-similarity-method of Pearson and Lipman 1988; the algorithm of Karlin and Altschul, 1990, modified as in Karlin and Altschul, 1993.

Computer implementations of these mathematical algorithms can be utilized for comparison of sequences to determine sequence identity. Such implementations include, but are not limited to: CLUSTAL in the PC/Gene program (available from Intelligenetics, Mountain View, California); the ALIGN program (Version 2.0) and GAP, BESTFIT, BLAST, FASTA, and TFASTA in the Wisconsin Genetics Software Package, Version 8 (available from Genetics Computer Group (GCG), 575 Science Drive, Madison, Wisconsin, USA). Alignments using these programs can be performed using the default parameters. The

CLUSTAL program is well described by Higgins et al. 1988; Higgins et al. 1989; Corpet et al. 1988; Huang et al. 1992; and Pearson et al. 1994. The ALIGN program is based on the algorithm of Myers and Miller, *supra*. The BLAST programs of Altschul et al., 1990, are based on the algorithm of Karlin and Altschul *supra*.

Software for performing BLAST analyses is publicly available through the National Center for Biotechnology Information (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/). This algorithm involves first identifying high scoring sequence pairs (HSPs) by identifying short words of length W in the query sequence, which either match or satisfy some positive-valued threshold score T when aligned with a word of the same length in a database sequence. T is referred to as the neighborhood word score threshold (Altschul et al., 1990). These initial neighborhood word hits act as seeds for initiating searches to find longer HSPs containing them. The word hits are then extended in both directions along each sequence for as far as the cumulative alignment score can be increased. Cumulative scores are calculated using, for nucleotide sequences, the parameters M (reward score for a pair of matching residues; always > 0) and N (penalty score for mismatching residues; always < 0). For amino acid sequences, a scoring matrix is used to calculate the cumulative score. Extension of the word hits in each direction are halted when the cumulative alignment score falls off by the quantity X from its maximum achieved value, the cumulative score goes to zero or below due to the accumulation of one or more negative-scoring residue alignments, or the end of either sequence is reached.

In addition to calculating percent sequence identity, the BLAST algorithm also performs a statistical analysis of the similarity between two sequences (see, e.g., Karlin & Altschul (1993). One measure of similarity provided by the BLAST algorithm is the smallest sum probability (P(N)), which provides an indication of the probability by which a match between two nucleotide or amino acid sequences would occur by chance. For example, a test nucleic acid sequence is considered similar to a reference sequence if the smallest sum probability in a comparison of the test nucleic acid sequence to the reference nucleic acid sequence is less than about 0.1, more preferably less than about 0.01, and most preferably less than about 0.001.

To obtain gapped alignments for comparison purposes, Gapped BLAST (in BLAST 2.0) can be utilized as described in Altschul et al. 1997. Alternatively, PSI-BLAST (in BLAST 2.0) can be used to perform an iterated search that detects distant relationships

between molecules. See Altschul et al., *supra*. When utilizing BLAST, Gapped BLAST, PSI-BLAST, the default parameters of the respective programs (e.g. BLASTN for nucleotide sequences, BLASTX for proteins) can be used. The BLASTN program (for nucleotide sequences) uses as defaults a wordlength (W) of 11, an expectation (E) of 10, a cutoff of 100, M=5, N=-4, and a comparison of both strands. For amino acid sequences, the BLASTP program uses as defaults a wordlength (W) of 3, an expectation (E) of 10, and the BLOSUM62 scoring matrix (see Henikoff & Henikoff, 1989). See http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov. Alignment may also be performed manually by inspection. For purposes of the present invention, comparison of nucleotide sequences for determination of percent sequence identity to the nucleotide sequences disclosed herein is preferably made using the BlastN program (version 1.4.7 or later) with its default parameters or any equivalent program. By "equivalent program" is intended any sequence comparison program that, for any two sequences in question, generates an alignment having identical nucleotide or amino acid residue matches and an identical percent sequence identity when compared to the corresponding alignment generated by the preferred program.

(c) As used herein, "sequence identity" or "identity" in the context of two nucleic acid or polypeptide sequences makes reference to the residues in the two sequences that are the same when aligned for maximum correspondence over a specified comparison window. When percentage of sequence identity is used in reference to proteins it is recognized that residue positions which are not identical often differ by conservative amino acid substitutions, where amino acid residues are substituted for other amino acid residues with similar chemical properties (e.g., charge or hydrophobicity) and therefore do not change the functional properties of the molecule. When sequences differ in conservative substitutions, the percent sequence identity may be adjusted upwards to correct for the conservative nature of the substitution. Sequences that differ by such conservative substitutions are said to have "sequence similarity" or "similarity." Means for making this adjustment are well known to those of skill in the art. Typically this involves scoring a conservative substitution as a partial rather than a full mismatch, thereby increasing the percentage sequence identity. Thus, for example, where an identical amino acid is given a score of 1 and a non-conservative substitution is given a score between zero

and 1. The scoring of conservative substitutions is calculated, e.g., as implemented in the program PC/GENE (Intelligenetics, Mountain View, California).

(d) As used herein, "percentage of sequence identity" means the value determined by comparing two optimally aligned sequences over a comparison window, wherein the portion of the polynucleotide sequence in the comparison window may comprise additions or deletions (i.e., gaps) as compared to the reference sequence (which does not comprise additions or deletions) for optimal alignment of the two sequences. The percentage is calculated by determining the number of positions at which the identical nucleic acid base or amino acid residue occurs in both sequences to yield the number of matched positions, dividing the number of matched positions by the total number of positions in the window of comparison, and multiplying the result by 100 to yield the percentage of sequence identity. (e)(i) The term "substantial identity" of polynucleotide sequences means that a polynucleotide comprises a sequence that has at least 66%. 67%, 68%, 69%, 70%, 71%, 72%, 73%, 74%, 75%, 76%, 77%, 78%, or 79%, preferably at least 80%, 81%, 82%, 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, or 89%, more preferably at least 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, or 94%, and most preferably at least 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% sequence identity, compared to a reference sequence using one of the alignment programs described using standard parameters. One of skill in the art will recognize that these values can be appropriately adjusted to determine corresponding identity of proteins encoded by two nucleotide sequences by taking into account codon degeneracy, amino acid similarity, reading frame positioning, and the like. Substantial identity of amino acid sequences for these purposes normally means sequence identity of at least 70%, more preferably at least 80%, 90%, and most preferably at least 95%.

Another indication that nucleotide sequences are substantially identical is if two molecules hybridize to each other under stringent conditions (see below). Generally, stringent conditions are selected to be about 5°C lower than the thermal melting point (T_m) for the specific sequence at a defined ionic strength and pH. However, stringent conditions encompass temperatures in the range of about 1°C to about 20°C, depending upon the desired degree of stringency as otherwise qualified herein. Nucleic acids that do not hybridize to each other under stringent conditions are still substantially identical if the polypeptides they encode are substantially identical. This may occur, e.g., when a copy of a nucleic acid is created using the maximum codon degeneracy permitted by the genetic code. One indication that two

nucleic acid sequences are substantially identical is when the polypeptide encoded by the first nucleic acid is immunologically cross reactive with the polypeptide encoded by the second nucleic acid.

(e)(ii) The term "substantial identity" in the context of a polypeptide indicates that a polypeptide comprises a sequence with at least 50%, 60%, 70%, 71%, 72%, 73%, 74%, 75%, 76%, 77%, 78%, or 79%, preferably 80%, 81%, 82%, 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, or 89%, more preferably at least 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, or 94%, or even more preferably, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98% or 99%, sequence identity to the reference sequence over a specified comparison window. Preferably, optimal alignment is conducted using the homology alignment algorithm of Needleman and Wunsch (1970). An indication that two polypeptide sequences are substantially identical is that one polypeptide is immunologically reactive with antibodies raised against the second polypeptide. Thus, a polypeptide is substantially identical to a second polypeptide, for example, where the two peptides differ only by a conservative substitution.

For sequence comparison, typically one sequence acts as a reference sequence to which test sequences are compared. When using a sequence comparison algorithm, test and reference sequences are input into a computer, subsequence coordinates are designated if necessary, and sequence algorithm program parameters are designated. The sequence comparison algorithm then calculates the percent sequence identity for the test sequence(s) relative to the reference sequence, based on the designated program parameters.

As noted above, another indication that two nucleic acid sequences are substantially identical is that the two molecules hybridize to each other under stringent conditions. The phrase "hybridizing specifically to" refers to the binding, duplexing, or hybridizing of a molecule only to a particular nucleotide sequence under stringent conditions when that sequence is present in a complex mixture (e.g., total cellular) DNA or RNA. "Bind(s) substantially" refers to complementary hybridization between a probe nucleic acid and a target nucleic acid and embraces minor mismatches that can be accommodated by reducing the stringency of the hybridization media to achieve the desired detection of the target nucleic acid sequence.

"Stringent hybridization conditions" and "stringent hybridization wash conditions" in the context of nucleic acid hybridization experiments such as Southern and Northern

hybridization are sequence dependent, and are different under different environmental parameters. The T_m is the temperature (under defined ionic strength and pH) at which 50% of the target sequence hybridizes to a perfectly matched probe. Specificity is typically the function of post-hybridization washes, the critical factors being the ionic strength and temperature of the final wash solution. For DNA-DNA hybrids, the T_m can be approximated from the equation of Meinkoth and Wahl, 1984; T_m 81.5°C + 16.6 (log M) +0.41 (%GC) -0.61 (% form) – 500/L; where M is the molarity of monovalent cations, %GC is the percentage of guanosine and cytosine nucleotides in the DNA, % form is the percentage of formamide in the hybridization solution, and L is the length of the hybrid in base pairs. T_m is reduced by about 1°C for each 1% of mismatching; thus, T_m, hybridization, and/or wash conditions can be adjusted to hybridize to sequences of the desired identity. For example, if sequences with >90% identity are sought, the T_m can be decreased 10°C. Generally, stringent conditions are selected to be about 5°C lower than the thermal melting point I for the specific sequence and its complement at a defined ionic strength and pH. However, severely stringent conditions can utilize a hybridization and/or wash at 1, 2, 3, or 4°C lower than the thermal melting point I; moderately stringent conditions can utilize a hybridization and/or wash at 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10°C lower than the thermal melting point I; low stringency conditions can utilize a hybridization and/or wash at 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20°C lower than the thermal melting point I. Using the equation, hybridization and wash compositions, and desired T, those of ordinary skill will understand that variations in the stringency of hybridization and/or wash solutions are inherently described. If the desired degree of mismatching results in a T of less than 45°C (aqueous solution) or 32°C (formamide solution), it is preferred to increase the SSC concentration so that a higher temperature can be used. An extensive guide to the hybridization of nucleic acids is found in Tijssen, 1993. Generally, highly stringent hybridization and wash conditions are selected to be about 5°C lower than the thermal melting point T_m for the specific sequence at a defined ionic strength and pH.

An example of highly stringent wash conditions is 0.15 M NaCl at 72°C for about 15 minutes. An example of stringent wash conditions is a 0.2X SSC wash at 65°C for 15 minutes (see, Sambrook, *infra*, for a description of SSC buffer). Often, a high stringency wash is preceded by a low stringency wash to remove background probe signal. An example medium

stringency wash for a duplex of, e.g., more than 100 nucleotides, is 1X SSC at 45°C for 15 minutes. An example low stringency wash for a duplex of, e.g., more than 100 nucleotides, is 4-6X SSC at 40°C for 15 minutes. For short probes (e.g., about 10 to 50 nucleotides), stringent conditions typically involve salt concentrations of less than about 1.5 M, more preferably about 0.01 to 1.0 M, Na ion concentration (or other salts) at pH 7.0 to 8.3, and the temperature is typically at least about 30°C and at least about 60°C for long robes (e.g., >50 nucleotides). Stringent conditions may also be achieved with the addition of destabilizing agents such as formamide. In general, a signal to noise ratio of 2X (or higher) than that observed for an unrelated probe in the particular hybridization assay indicates detection of a specific hybridization. Nucleic acids that do not hybridize to each other under stringent conditions are still substantially identical if the proteins that they encode are substantially identical. This occurs, e.g., when a copy of a nucleic acid is created using the maximum codon degeneracy permitted by the genetic code.

Very stringent conditions are selected to be equal to the T_m for a particular probe. An example of stringent conditions for hybridization of complementary nucleic acids which have more than 100 complementary residues on a filter in a Southern or Northern blot is 50% formamide, e.g., hybridization in 50% formamide, 1 M NaCl, 1% SDS at 37°C, and a wash in 0. 1X SSC at 60 to 65°C. Exemplary low stringency conditions include hybridization with a buffer solution of 30 to 35% formamide, 1 M NaCl, 1% SDS (sodium dodecyl sulphate) at 37°C, and a wash in 1X to 2X SSC (20X SSC = 3.0 M NaCl/0.3 M trisodium citrate) at 50 to 55°C. Exemplary moderate stringency conditions include hybridization in 40 to 45% formamide, 1.0 M NaCl, 1% SDS at 37°C, and a wash in 0.5X to 1X SSC at 55 to 60°C.

The following are examples of sets of hybridization/wash conditions that may be used to clone orthologous nucleotide sequences that are substantially identical to reference nucleotide sequences of the present invention: a reference nucleotide sequence preferably hybridizes to the reference nucleotide sequence in 7% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), 0.5 M NaPO₄, 1 mM EDTA at 50°C with washing in 2X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 50°C, more desirably in 7% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), 0.5 M NaPO₄, 1 mM EDTA at 50°C with washing in 1X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 50°C, more desirably still in 7% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), 0.5 M NaPO₄, 1 mM EDTA at 50°C with washing in 0.5X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 50°C, preferably in 7% sodium

dodecyl sulfate (SDS), 0.5 M NaPO₄, 1 mM EDTA at 50°C with washing in 0.1X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 50°C, more preferably in 7% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), 0.5 M NaPO₄, 1 mM EDTA at 50°C with washing in 0.1X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C.

One non-limiting source of a purified polypeptide of the invention exhibiting an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase that regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin is the cell-free extract described in the examples below. Another method for purifying a polypeptide exhibiting a P450 monooxygenase activity in accordance with the invention is to attach a tag to the protein, thereby facilitating its purification. Accordingly, the invention provides a purified polypeptide exhibiting an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase which regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin, wherein the polypeptide is covalently bound to a tag. The invention further provides a nucleic acid molecule encoding such a tagged polypeptide.

As used herein, a "tag" is meant a polypeptide or other molecule covalently bound to a polypeptide of the invention, whereby a binding agent (*e.g.*, a polypeptide or molecule) specifically binds the tag. In accordance with the invention, by "specifically binds" is meant that the binding agent (*e.g.*, an antibody or Ni²⁺ resin) recognizes and binds to a particular polypeptide or chemical but does not substantially recognize or bind to other molecules in the sample. In some embodiments, a binding agent that specifically binds a ligand forms an association with that ligand with an affinity of at least 10⁶ M⁻¹, or at least 10⁷ M⁻¹, or at least 10⁸ M⁻¹, or at least 10⁹ M⁻¹ either in water, under physiological conditions, or under conditions which approximate physiological conditions with respect to ionic strength, *e.g.*, 140 mM NaCl, 5 mM MgCl₂. For example, a His tag is specifically bound by nickel (*e.g.*, the Ni²⁺-charged column commercially available as His•Bind® Resin from Novagen Inc, Madison, WI). Likewise, a Myc tag is specifically bound by an antibody that specifically binds Myc.

As described below, a His tag is attached to the purified polypeptide of the invention exhibiting an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase by generating a nucleic acid molecule encoding the His-tagged polypeptide, and expressing the polypeptide in *E. coli*. These polypeptides, once expressed by *E. coli*, are readily purified by standard techniques (*e.g.*, using one of the His•Bind® Kits commercially available from Novagen or using the TALONTM Resin (and manufacturer's instructions) commercially available from Clontech Laboratories, Inc., Palo Alto, CA).

Additional tags may be attached to any or all of the polypeptides of the invention to facilitate purification. These tags include, without limitation, the HA-Tag (amino acid sequence: YPYDVPDYA (SEQ ID NO:39)), the Myc-tag (amino acid sequence: EQKLISEEDL (SEQ ID NO:40)), the HSV tag (amino acid sequence: QPELAPEDPED (SEQ ID NO:41)), and the VSV-G-Tag (amino acid sequence: YTDIEMNRLGK (SEQ ID NO:42)). Covalent attachment (e.g., via a polypeptide bond) of these tags to a polypeptide of the invention allows purification of the tagged polypeptide using, respectively, an anti-HA antibody, an anti-Myc antibody, an anti-HSV antibody, or an anti-VSV-G antibody, all of which are commercially available (for example, from MBL International Corp., Watertown, MA; Novagen Inc.; Research Diagnostics Inc., Flanders, NJ).

The tagged polypeptides of the invention exhibiting a P450 monooxygenase activity may also be tagged by a covalent bond to a chemical, such as biotin, which is specifically bound by streptavidin, and thus may be purified on a streptavidin column. Similarly, the tagged P450 monooxygenases of the invention may be covalently bound (e.g., via a polypeptide bond) to the constant region of an antibody. Such a tagged P450 monooxygenase may be purified, for example, on protein A sepharose.

The tagged P450 monooxygenases of the invention may also be tagged to a GST (glutathione-S-transferase) or the constant region of an immunoglobulin. For example, a nucleic acid molecule of the invention (*e.g.*, comprising SEQ ID NO:1) can be cloned into one of the pGEX plasmids commercially available from Amersham Pharmacia Biotech, Inc. (Piscataway NJ), and the plasmid expressed in *E. coli*. The resulting P450 monooxygenase encoded by the nucleic acid molecule is covalently bound to a GST (glutathione-S-transferase). These GST fusion proteins can be purified on a glutathione agarose column (commercially available from, *e.g.*, Amersham Pharmacia Biotech), and thus purified. Many of the pGEX plasmids enable easy removal of the GST portion from the fusion protein. For example, the pGEX-2T plasmid contains a thrombin recognition site between the inserted nucleic acid molecule of interest and the GST-encoding nucleic acid sequence. Similarly, the pGES-3T plasmid contains a factor Xa site. By treating the fusion protein with the appropriate enzyme, and then separating the GST portion from the P450 monooxygenase of the invention using glutathione agarose (to which the GST specifically binds), the P450 monooxygenase of the invention can be purified.

Yet another method to obtain a purified polypeptide of the invention exhibiting a P450 monooxygenase activity is to use a binding agent that specifically binds to such a polypeptide. Accordingly, the invention provides a binding agent that specifically binds to a P450 monooxygenase of the invention. This binding agent of the invention may be a chemical compound (e.g., a protein), a metal ion, or a small molecule.

In particular embodiments, the binding agent is an antibody. The term "antibody" encompasses, without limitation, polyclonal antibody, monoclonal antibody, antibody fragments (e.g., Fab, Fv, or Fab' fragments), single chain antibody, chimeric antibody, bispecific antibody, antibody of any isotype (e.g., IgG, IgA, and IgE), and antibody from any specifies (e.g., rabbit, mouse, and human).

In one non-limiting example, the binding agent of the invention is a polyclonal antibody. In another non-limiting example, the binding agent of the invention is a monoclonal antibody. Methods for making both monoclonal and polyclonal antibodies are well known (*see*, *e.g.*, Current Protocols in Immunology, ed. John E. Coligan, John Wiley & Sons, Inc. 1993; Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, eds. Ausubel *et al.*, John Wiley & Sons, Inc. 2000).

The polypeptides described herein exhibiting an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase that regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin belong to a family of novel P450 monooxygenases. Accordingly, the invention also provides a family of P450 monooxygenase polypeptides, wherein each member of the family regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin. In some embodiments, each member of the family comprises or consists of an amino acid sequence that is at least 50% identical to SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:30, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO:34, or SEQ ID NO:95. In particular embodiments, each member of the family is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule comprising or consisting of a nucleic acid sequence that is at least 66% identical to SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:31, SEQ ID NO:33, or SEQ ID NO:94.

The present invention, which provides an entire family of P450 monooxygenases, each member of which is able to regioselectively oxidize avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin, allowed for the generation of an improved P450 monooxygenase, which may not be naturally occurring, but which regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin with efficiency and with reduced undesirable side product. For instance, one of the members of the P450 monooxygenase family of the invention, P450_{Emal} enzyme catalyzes a further oxidation that is not desirable, since the formation of 3"-O-demethyl-4"-keto-avermectin has been detected in the reaction by *Streptomyces tubercidicus* strain R-922 and by *Streptomyces lividans* containing the *emal* gene. The formation of 3"-O-demethyl-4"-keto-avermectin is brought about by the oxidation of the 3"-O-methyl group, whereby the hydrolytically labile 3"-O-hydroxymethyl group is formed which hydrolyzes to form formaldehyde and the 3"-hydroxyl group.

By providing a family of polypeptides exhibiting an enzymatic activity of P450 monooxygenases that regioselectively oxidize avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin (see, e.g., Table 3 below), individual members of the family can be subjected to family gene shuffling efforts in order to produce new hybrid genes encoding optimized P450 monooxygenases of the invention. In one non-limiting example, a portion of the ema1 gene encoding the O₂ binding site of the P450_{Ema1} protein can be swapped with the portion of the ema2 gene encoding the O₂ binding site of the P450_{Ema2} protein. Such a chimeric ema1/2 protein is within definition of a P450 monooxygenase of the invention.

Site-directed mutagenesis or directed evolution technologies may also be employed to generate derivatives of the *ema1* gene that encode enzymes with improved properties, including higher overall activity and/or reduced side product formation. One method for deriving such a mutant is to mutate the *Streptomyces* strain itself, in a manner similar to the UV mutation of *Streptomyces tubercidicus* strain R-922 described below.

Additional derivatives may be made by making conservative or non-conservative changes to the amino acid sequence of a P450 monooxygenase. Conservative and non-conservative amino acid substitutions are well known (see, e.g., Stryer, <u>Biochemistry</u>, 3rd Ed., W.H. Freeman and Co., NY 1988). Similarly, truncations of a P450 monooxygenase of the invention may be generated by truncating the protein at its N-terminus (e.g., see the ema1A

gene described below), at its C-terminus, or truncating (*i.e.*, removing amino acid residues) from the middle of the protein.

Such a mutant, derivative, or truncated P450 monooxygenase is a P450 monooxygenase of the invention as long as the mutant, derivative, or truncated P450 monooxygenase is able to regioselectively oxidize avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin.

In another aspect, the invention provides a cell genetically engineered to comprise a nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide which exhibits an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase that regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin. By "genetically engineered" is meant that the nucleic acid molecule is exogenous to the cell into which it is introduced. Introduction of the exogenous nucleic acid molecule into the genetically engineered cell may be accomplished by any means, including, without limitation, transfection, transduction, and transformation.

In certain embodiments, the nucleic acid molecule is positioned for expression in the genetically engineered cell. By "positioned for expression" is meant that the exogenous nucleic acid molecule encoding the polypeptide is linked to a regulatory sequence in such a way as to permit expression of the nucleic acid molecule when introduced into a cell. By "regulatory sequence" is meant nucleic acid sequences, such as initiation signals, polyadenylation (polyA) signals, promoters, and enhancers, which control expression of protein coding sequences with which they are operably linked. By "expression" of a nucleic acid molecule encoding a protein or polypeptide fragment is meant expression of that nucleic acid molecule as protein and/or mRNA.

A genetically engineered cell of the invention may be a prokayotic cell (e.g., E. coli) or a eukaryotic cell (e.g., Saccharomyces cerevisiae or mammalian cell (e.g., HeLa)). According to some embodiments of the invention, the genetically engineered cell is a cell wherein the wild-type (i.e., not genetically engineered) cell does not naturally contain the inserted nucleic acid molecule and does not naturally express the protein encoded by the inserted nucleic acid molecule. Accordingly, the cell may be a genetically engineered Streptomyces strain, such as a Streptomyces lividans or a Streptomyces avermitilis strain. Alternatively, the cell may be a genetically engineered Pseudomonas strain, such as a Pseudomonas putida strain or a Pseudomonas fluorescens strain. In another alternative, the cell may be a genetically engineered Escherichia coli strain.

Note that in some types of cells genetically engineered to comprise a nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide which exhibits an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase that regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin, the actual genetically engineered cell, itself, may not be able to convert avermectin into 4"-keto-avermectin. Rather, the P450 monooxygenase heterogously expressed by such a genetically engineered cell may be purified from that cell, where the purified P450 monooxygenase of the invention can be used to regioselectively oxidize avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin. Thus, the genetically engineered cell of the invention need not, itself, be able to regioselectively convert avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin; rather, the genetically engineered cell of the invention need only comprise a nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide which exhibits an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase that regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin, regardless of whether the polypeptide is active inside that cell.

In addition, a cell (*e.g.*, *E. coli*) geneticially engineered to comprise a nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide of the invention which exhibits an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase may not be able to regioselectively oxidize avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin, although the P450 monooxygenase purified from the genetically engineered cell is able to regioselectively oxidize avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin. However, if the same cell were genetically engineered to comprise a polypeptide of the invention which exhibits an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase, a ferredoxin of the invention, and/or a ferredoxin reductase of the invention, then the P450 monooxygenase together with the ferredoxin and the ferredoxin reductase, all purified from that cell, and in the presence of a reducing agent (*e.g.*, NADH or NADPH), would be able to regioselectively oxidize avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin. Furthermore the genetically engineered cell comprising a P450 monooxygenase of the invention, a ferredoxin of the invention, and a ferredoxin reductase of the invention, itself, might be able to carry out this oxidation.

Moreover, in a non-limiting example where a cell (e.g., E. coli) is genetically engineered to express P450 monooxygenase, a ferredoxin, and a ferredoxin reductase proteins of the invention, all three of these proteins, when purified from the genetically engineered E. coli, are together and in the presence of a reducing agent (e.g., NADH or NADPH) would be active and able to regioselectively oxidize avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin, and so are useful in a method for making emamectin.

In accordance with the present invention, the following material has been deposited with the Agricultural Research Service, Patent Culture Collection (NRRL), 1815 North University Street, Peoria, Illinois 61604, under the terms of the Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure: (1) Streptomyces lividans ZX7 (ema1/fd233-TUA1A) NRRL Designation No. B-30478; and (2) Pseudomonas putida NRRL B-4067 containing plasmid pRK290-ema1/fd233, NRRL Designation No.B-30479

In identifying the novel family of polypeptides exhibiting an enzymatic activity of P450 monooxygenases that regioselectively oxidize avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin, novel ferredoxins and novel ferredoxin reductases were also identified in the same strains of bacteria in which the P450 monooxygenases were found. Accordingly, in a further aspect, the invention provides a purified nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide that exhibits an enzymatic activity of a ferredoxin, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is isolated from a Streptomyces strain comprising a polypeptide that regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin. Similarly, the invention provides a purified nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide that exhibits an enzymatic activity of a ferredoxin reductase, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is isolated from a Streptomyces strain comprising a polypeptide that regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin. The invention also provides a purified protein that exhibits an enzymatic activity of a ferredoxin, as well as a purified protein that exhibits an enzymatic activity of a ferredoxin reductase, wherein the ferredoxin protein and the ferredoxin reductase protein are isolated from a Streptomyces strain comprising a polypeptide that regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin.

A useful nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide that exhibits an enzymatic activity of a ferredoxin comprises or consists essentially of a nucleic acid sequence that is at least 81% identical to SEQ ID NO:35 or SEQ ID NO:37. Alternatively, the nucleic acid molecule comprises or consists essentially of a nucleic acid sequence that is at least 85%, or at least 90%, or at least 95%, or at least 99% identical to SEQ ID NO:35 or SEQ ID NO:37. The nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide that exhibits an enzymatic activity of a ferredoxin

may comprise or consist essentially of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:35 or SEQ ID NO:37.

The protein of the invention exhibiting a ferredoxin activity may comprise or consist essentially of an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO:36 or SEQ ID NO:38. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid molecule comprises or consists essentially an amino acid sequence that is at least 85%, or at least 90%, or at least 95%, or at least 99% identical to SEQ ID NO:36 or SEQ ID NO:38. The ferredoxin of the invention may comprise or consist essentially of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:36 or SEQ ID NO:38.

A useful nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a protein of the invention exhibiting a ferredoxin reductase comprises or consists essentially of the nucleic acid sequence that is at least 85%, or at least 90%, or at least 95%, or at least 99% identical to SEQ ID NO:98, SEQ ID NO:100, SEQ ID NO:102, or SEQ ID NO:104. In a particular embodiment of the invention, the nucleic acid molecule encoding a ferredoxin reductase of the invention may comprise or consist essentially of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:98, SEQ ID NO:100, SEQ ID NO:102, or SEQ ID NO:104.

The ferredoxin reductase of the invention may comprise or consist essentially of the amino acid sequence that is at least 85%, or at least 90%, or at least 95%, or at least 99% identical to SEQ ID NO:99, SEQ ID NO:101, SEQ ID NO:103, or SEQ ID NO:105. In a particular embodiment of the invention, the ferredoxin reductase of the invention may comprise or consist essentially of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:99, SEQ ID NO:101, SEQ ID NO:103, or SEQ ID NO:105.

. Methods for purifying ferredoxin and ferredoxin reductase proteins and nucleic acid molecules encoding such ferredoxin and ferredoxin reductase proteins are known in the art and are the same as those described above for purifying P450 monooxygenases of the invention and nucleic acid molecules encoding P450 monooxygenases of the invention.

In one non-limiting example to obtain a purified P450 monooxygenase of the invention with a purified ferredoxin, a *S. lividans* strain (or *P. putida* strain, or any other cell in which the P450 monooxygenase of the invention does not naturally occur) may be genetically engineered to contain a first nucleic acid molecule encoding a P450 monooxygenase of the invention and a second nucleic acid molecule encoding a ferredoxin protein, where both the first and second nucleic acid molecules are positioned for expression in the genetically

engineered cell. The first and the second nucleic acid molecules can be on separate plasmids, or can be on the same plasmid. Thus, the same engineered cell or strain will produce both the P450 monooxygenase of the invention and the ferredoxin protein of the invention.

In a further non-limiting example to obtain a purified P450 monooxygenase of the invention with a purified ferredoxin and with a purified ferredoxin reductase of the invention, a *S. lividans* strain (or *P. putida* strain, or any other cell in which the P450 monooxygenase of the invention does not naturally occur) may be genetically engineered to contain a first nucleic acid molecule encoding a P450 monooxygenase of the invention and a second nucleic acid molecule encoding a ferredoxin protein of the invention and a third nucleic acid molecule encoding a ferredoxin reductase protein of the invention, where all the first and second and third nucleic acid molecules are positioned for expression in the genetically engineered cell. The first and the second and the third nucleic acid molecules may be provided on separate plasmids, or on the same plasmid. Thus, the same engineered cell or strain will produce all the P450 monooxygenase of the invention and the ferredoxin and the ferredoxin reductase proteins of the invention.

As described above for the P450 monooxygenases of the invention, the ferredoxin protein and/or the ferredoxin reductase protein may further comprise a tag. Moreover, the invention contemplates binding agents (e.g., antibodies) that specifically bind to the ferredoxin protein, and binding agents that specifically bind to the ferredoxin reductase proteins of the invention. Methods for generating tagged ferredoxin protein, tagged ferredoxin reductase protein, and binding agents (e.g., antibodies) that specifically bind to ferredoxin or ferredoxin reductase are the same as those as described above for generating tagged P450 monooxygenases of the invention and generating binding agents that specifically bind P450 monooxygenases of the invention.

The invention also provides a method for making emamectin. In this method, a P450 monooxygenase that regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin is added to a reaction mixture containing avermectin. The reaction mixture is then incubated under conditions that allow the P450 monooxygenase to regioselectively oxidize avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin. The reaction mixture may further comprise a ferredoxin, such as a ferredoxin of the present invention. In particular embodiments, the reaction mixture further

comprises a ferredoxin reductase such as a ferredoxin of the present invention. The reaction mixture may further comprise a reducing agent, such as NADH or NADPH.

Additionally, the invention provides a method for making 4"-keto-avermectin. The method comprises adding a P450 monooxygenase that regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin to a reaction mixture comprising avermectin and incubating the reaction mixture under conditions that allow the P450 monooxygenase to regioselectively oxidize avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin. In some embodiments, the reaction mixture further comprises a ferredoxin, such as a ferredoxin of the present invention. The reaction mixture may also further comprise a ferredoxin reductase such as a ferredoxin of the present invention. In particular embodiments, the reaction mixture further comprises a reducing agent, such as NADH or NADPH.

The invention also provides a formulation for making emamectin comprising a P450 monooxygenase that regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin. In some embodiments, the formulation further comprises a ferredoxin, such as a ferredoxin of the present invention. In particular embodiments, the ferredoxin is isolated from the same species of cell or strain from which the P450 monooxygenase was isolated or derived. The formulation may further comprise a ferredoxin reductase, such as a ferredoxin reductase of the present invention. In particular embodiments, the ferredoxin reductase is isolated from the same species of cell or strain from which the P450 monooxygenase was isolated or derived.

In some embodiments, the formulation further comprises a reducing agent, such as NADH or NADPH.

In addition, the invention provides a formulation for making 4"-keto-avermectin comprising a P450 monooxygenase that regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin. In some embodiments, the formulation further comprises a ferredoxin, such as a ferredoxin of the present invention. In particular embodiments, the ferredoxin is isolated from the same species of cell or strain from which the P450 monooxygenase was isolated or derived. In some embodiments, the formulation further comprises a ferredoxin reductase, such as a ferredoxin reductase of the present invention. In particular embodiments, the ferredoxin reductase is isolated from the same species of cell or strain from which the P450 monooxygenase was isolated or derived. The formulation may further comprise a reducing agent, such as NADH or NADPH.

The following examples are intended to further illustrate certain preferred embodiments of the invention and are not limiting in nature.

EXAMPLE I

Optimized Growth Conditions for Streptomyces tubercidicus Strain R-922

In one non-limiting example the fermentation conditions needed to provide a steady supply of cells of *Streptomyces tubercidicus* strain R-922 highly capable of regioselectively oxidizing avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin were optimized.

First, the following solutions were made. For ISP-2 agar, 4 g of yeast extract (commercially available from Oxoid Ltd, Basingstoke, UK), 4 g of D(+)-glucose, 10 g of bacto malt extract (Difco No. 0186-17-7 (Difco products commercially available from, *e.g.*, Voigt Global Distribution, Kansas City, MO)), and 20 g of agar (Difco No. 0140-01) were dissolved in one liter of demineralized water, and the pH is adjusted to 7.0. The solution was sterilized at 121°C for 20 min., cooled down, and kept at 55°C for the time needed for the immediate preparation of the agar plates.

For PHG medium, 10 g of peptone (Sigma 0521; commercially available from Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, MO), 10 g of yeast extract (commercially available from Difco), 10 g of D-(+)-glucose, 2 g of NaCl, 0.15 g of MgSO₄ x 7 H₂O, 1.3 g of NaH₂PO₄ x H₂O, and 4.4 g of K₂HPO₄ were dissolved in 1 liter of demineralized water, and the pH was adjusted to 7.0.

Streptomyces tubercidicus strain R-922 was grown in a Petri dish on ISP-2 agar at 28°C. This culture was used to inoculate four 500 ml shaker flasks with a baffle, each containing 100 ml PHG medium. These pre-cultures were grown on an orbital shaker at 120 rpm at 28°C for 72 hours and then used to inoculate a 10-liter fermenter equipped with a mechanical stirrer and containing 8 liters of PHG medium. This main culture was grown at 28°C with stirring at 500 rpm and with aeration of 1.75 vvm (14 l/min.) and a pressure of 0.7 bar. At the end of the exponential growth, after about 20 hours, the cells were harvested by centrifugation. The yield of wet cells was 70-80 g/l culture.

EXAMPLE II

Whole Cell Biocatalysis Assay

As determined in accordance with the present invention, the following whole cell biocatalysis assay was employed to determine that the activity from *Streptomyces* cells capable of regioselectively oxidizing avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin is catalyzed by a P450 monooxygenase.

Streptomyces tubercidicus strain R-922 was grown in PHG medium, and Streptomyces tubercidicus strain I-1529 was grown in M-17 or PHG medium. PHG medium contains 10 g/l Peptone (Sigma, 0.521), 10 g/l Yeast Extract (Difco, 0127-17-9), 10 g/l D-Glucose, 2 g/l NaCl, 0.15 g/l MgSO₄ x 7 H₂O, 1.3 g/l NaH₂PO₄ x 1 H₂O, and 4.4 g/l K₂HPO₄ at pH 7.0. M-17 medium contains 10 g/l glycerol, 20 g/l Dextrin white, 10 g/l Soytone (Difco 0437-17), 3 g/l Yeast Extract (Difco 0127-17-9), 2 g/l (NH₄)₂SO₄, and 2 g/l CaCO₃ at pH 7.0

To grow the cells, an ISP2 agar plate (not older than 1-2 weeks) was inoculated and incubated for 3-7 days until good growth was achieved. Next, an overgrown agar piece was transferred (with an inoculation loop) to a 250ml Erlenmeyer flask with 1 baffle containing 50 ml PHG medium. This pre-culture is incubated at 28°C and 120 rpm for 2-3 days. Next, 5 ml of the pre-culture were transferred to a 500 ml Erlenmeyer flask with 1 baffle containing 100 ml PHG medium. The main culture was incubated at 28°C and 120 rpm for 2 days. Next, the culture was centrifuged for 10 min. at 8000 rpm on a Beckman Rotor JA-14. The cells were next washed once with 50 mM potassium phosphate buffer, pH 7.0.

To perform the whole cell biocatalysis assay, 500 mg wet cells were placed into a 25 ml Erlenmeyer flask, to which were added 10 ml of 50 mM potassium phosphate buffer, pH 7.0. The cells were stirred with a magnetic stir bar to distribute the cells. Next, 15 µl of a solution of avermectin B1a in isopropanol (30 mg/ml) were added, and the mixture shaken on an orbital shaker at 160 rpm and 28°C. Strain R-922 was reacted for 2 hours, and strain I-1529 was reacted for 30 hours.

To work up the cultures in the whole cell biocatalysis assay, 10 ml methyl-t-butyl-ether was added to an Erlenmeyer flask containing the resting cells and the entire cell mixture was transferred to a 30 ml-centrifuge tube, shaken vigorously, and then centrifuged at 16000 rpm for 10 min. The ether phase was pipetted into a 50 ml pear flask, and evaporated in vacuo by means of a rotary evaporator (≤0.1 mbar). The residue was re-dissolved in 1.2 ml acetonitrile

and transferred to an HPLC-sample vial. The conversion of avermectin B1a to 4"-hydroxy-avermectin B1a and 4"-keto-avermectin B1a (also called 4"-oxo-avermectin B1a) and the formation of a side product from the biocatalysis reaction could be observed by HPLC analysis using HPLC protocol I.

For HPLC protocol I, the following parameters were used:

Hardware

Pump: L-6250 Merck-Hitachi

Autosampler: AS-2000A Merck-Hitachi

Interface Module: D-6000 Merck-Hitachi

Channel 1-Detector: L-7450A UV-Diode Array Merck-Hitachi

Column Oven: none

Column: 70mm x 4mm

Adsorbent: Kromasil 100Å-3.5µ-C18

Gradient Mode: Low

Pressure Limit: 5-300bar

Column Temperature ambient ($\approx 20^{\circ}$ C)

Solvent A: acetonitrile

Solvent B: water

Flow: 1.5 ml/min

Detection: 243 nm

Pump Table: 0.0 min 75% A 25% B

linear gradient 7.0 min 100% A 0% B

9.0 min 100% A 0% B

jump 9.1 min 75% A 25% B

12.0 min 75% A 25% B

Stop time: 12 min

Sampling Period: every 200 msec

Retention time table: time References

2.12 min 4"-hydroxy- avermectin B1a

3.27 min avermectin B1a

3.77 min 3"-O-demethyl-4"-keto-avermectin B1a

4.83 min 4"-keto-avermectin B1a

EXAMPLE III

Biotransformation With Cell-Free Extract From Streptomyces Strain R-922

To prepare an active cell-free extract from *Streptomyces tubercidicus* strain R-922 capable of regioselective oxidation of avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin, the following solutions were made, stored at 4°C, and kept on ice when used.

Solution	Formula
PP-buffer	50 mM K ₂ HPO ₄ /KH ₂ PO ₄ (pH 7.0)
Disruption buffer	50 mM K ₂ HPO ₄ /KH ₂ PO ₄ (pH 7.0), 5 mM benzamidine, 2 mM
	dithiothreitol, and 0.5 mM Pefabloc (from Roche Diagnostics)
Substrate	10 mg avermectin were dissolved in 1 ml isopropanol

Six grams of wet cells from *Streptomyces* strain R-922 were washed in PP-buffer and then resuspended in 35 ml disruption buffer and disrupted in a French press at 4°C. The resulting suspension was centrifuged for 1 hour at 35000 x g. The supernatant of the cell free extract was collected. One µl substrate was added to 499µl of cleared cell free extract and incubated at 30°C for 1 hour. Then, 1 ml methyl-t-butyl ether was added to the reaction mixture and thoroughly mixed. The mixture was next centrifuged for 2 min. at 14000 rpm, and the methyl-t-butyl ether phase was transferred into a 10 ml flask and evaporated in vacuo

by means of a rotary evaporator. The residue was dissolved in 200 μ l acetonitrile and transferred into an HPLC-sample vial.

For HPLC, the HPLC protocol I was used.

When 1 μ l substrate was added to 499 μ l of cleared cell free extract and incubated at 30°C, no conversion of avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin was observed by HPLC analysis using HPLC protocol I.

However, the possibility of addition of spinach ferredoxin and spinach ferredoxin reductase and NADPH to the cell free extract to restore the biocatalytic activity was explored (see, generally, D.E. Cane and E.I. Graziani, J. Amer. Chem. Soc. 120:2682, 1998). Accordingly, the following solutions were made:

Solution	Formula
Substrate	10 mg avermectin were dissolved in 1 ml isopropanol
Ferredoxin	5 mg ferredoxin (from spinach), solution 1-3 mg/ml in Tris/HCl-buffer
	(from Fluka)
	or 5 mg ferredoxin (from Clostridium pasteurianum), solution of 1-3
	mg/ml in Tris/HCl-buffer (from Fluka)
	or 5 mg ferredoxin (from Porphyra umbilicalis), solution of 1-3
	mg/ml in Tris/HCl-buffer (from Fluka)
Ferredoxin Reductase	1 mg freeze-dried ferredoxin reductase (from spinach), solution of 3.9
	U/mg in 1 ml H ₂ O (from Sigma)
NADPH	100 mM NADPH in H ₂ O (from Roche Diagnostics)

The substrate solution was stored at 4°C, the other solutions were stored at -20°C, and kept on ice when used.

Thus, to 475 µl of cleared cell free extract the following solutions were added: 10 µl ferredoxin, 10 µl ferredoxin reductase and 1 µl substrate. After the addition of substrate to the cells, the mixture was immediately and thoroughly mixed and aerated. Then, 5 µl of NADPH were added and the mixture incubated at 30°C for 30 min. Then, 1 ml methyl-t-butyl ether was added to the reaction mixture and thoroughly mixed. The mixture was next centrifuged for 2 min. at 14000 rpm, and the methyl-t-butyl ether phase was transferred into a 10 ml flask

and evaporated in vacuo by means of a rotary evaporator. The residue was dissolved in 200 μ l acetonitrile and transferred into an HPLC-sample vial, and HPLC analysis performed using HPLC protocol I.

Formation of 4"-keto-avermectin was observable by HPLC analysis. Thus, addition of spinach ferredoxin and spinach ferredoxin reductase and NADPH to the cell free extract restored the biocatalytic activity.

Upon injection of a 30 µl sample, a peak appeared at 4.83 min., indicating the presence of 4"-keto-avermectin B1a. A mass of 870 D could be assigned to this peak by HPLC-mass spectrometry which corresponds to the molecular weight of 4"-keto-avermectin B1a.

Note that when analyzing product formation by HPLC and HPLC-mass spectrometry, in addition to the 4"-keto-avermectin, the corresponding ketohydrate 4"-hydroxy-avermectin was also found giving a peak at 2.12 min. This finding indicated that the P450 monooxygenase converts avermectin by hydroxylation to 4"-hydroxy-avermectin, from which 4"-keto-avermectin is formed by dehydration. Interestingly, when the spinach ferredoxin was replaced by ferredoxin from the bacterium *Clostridium pasteurianum* or from the red alga *Porphyra umbilicalis*, the biocatalytic conversion of avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin still took place, indicating that the enzyme does not depend on a specific ferredoxin for receiving reduction equivalents.

EXAMPLE IV

Isolation of a Mutant Streptomyces Strain R-922 With Enhanced Activity

To obtain strains of *Streptomyces* strain R-922 that have an enhanced ability to regioselectively oxidize avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin, UV mutants were generated. To do this, spores of *Streptomyces* strain R-922 were collected and stored in 15% glycerol at -20°C. This stock solution contained 2x10⁹ spores.

The spore stock solution was next diluted and transferred to petri plates containing 10ml of sterile water, and the suspension was exposed to UV light in a Stratalinker UV crosslinker 2400 (commercially available from Stratagene, La Jolla, CA). The Stratalinker UV crosslinker uses a 254-nm light source and the amount of energy used to irradiate a sample can be set in the "energy mode."

Applicant's or agent's		International application No.
file reference	PB/5-60016A	PCT/EP 02/05363

INDICATIONS RELATING TO DEPOSITED MICROORGANISM OR OTHER BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL

(PCT Rule 13bis)

A. The indications made below relate to the deposited microorgan on page	nism or other biological material referred to in the description 1-7 .
B. IDENTIFICATION OF DEPOSIT	Further deposits are identified on an additional sheet
Name of depositary institution Agricultural Research Service, Patent Culture Collection	on (NRRL)
Address of depositary institution (including postal code and count 1815 North University Street Peoria Illinois 61604 USA	(י <i>י</i> יי)
Date of deposit	Accession Number
May 08, 2001	NRRL B-30479
C. ADDITIONAL INDICATIONS (leave blank if not applicable	(e) This information is continued on an additional sheet
Pseudomonas putida NRRL B-4067 containing plasm	id pRK290-ema1/fd233
D. DESIGNATED STATES FOR WHICH INDICATIONS A	RE MADE (if the indications are not for all designated States)
E. SEPARATE FURNISHING OF INDICATIONS (leave blan	nk if not applicable)
The indications listed below will be submitted to the International E Number of Deposit")	Bureau later (specify the general nature of the indications e.g., "Accession
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Applicant's or agent's		International application No.
file reference	PB/5-60016A	PCT/EP 02/05363

INDICATIONS RELATING TO DEPOSITED MICROORGANISM OR OTHER BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL

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Name of depositary institution Agricultural Research Service, Patent Culture Collection	ion (NRRL)
Address of depositary institution (including postal code and coun 1815 North University Street Peoria Illinois 61604 USA	try)
Date of deposit	Accession Number
May 08, 2001	NRRL B-30478
C. ADDITIONAL INDICATIONS (leave blank if not applicab	le) This information is continued on an additional sheet
Streptomyces lividans ZX7 (ema1/fd233-TUA1A)	
D. DESIGNATED STATES FOR WHICH INDICATIONS A	RE MADE (if the indications are not for all designated States)
E. SEPARATE FURNISHING OF INDICATIONS (leave bla	nk if not applicable)
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Through experimentation, it was determined that an exposure of 8000 microjoules of UV irradiation (254 nm) was required to kill 99.9% of the spores. This level of UV exposure was used in the mutagenesis.

Surviving UV-mutagenized spores were plated, cultured, and transferred to minimal media. Approximately 0.3-0.4% of the viable spores were determined to be auxotrophic, indicating a good level of mutagenesis in the population.

The mutagenized clones were screened for activity in the whole cell biocatalysis assay described in Example II. As shown in an HPLC chromatogram, one mutant ("R-922 UV mutant") showed a two to three fold increase in an ability to regioselectively oxidize avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin as compared to wild-type strain R-922. Although the gene encoding the P450 monooxygenase responsible for the regioselectively oxidation activity, *ema1*, is not mutated in the R-922 UV mutant, this mutant nonetheless provides an excellent source for a cell-free extract containing ema1 protein.

EXAMPLE V

<u>Isolation of the P450 Monooxygenase from Streptomyces Strain R-922</u>

To enrich the P450 enzyme, 35 ml of active cell free extract were filtered through a 45 μ m filter and fractionated by anion exchange chromatography. Anion exchange chromatography conditions were as follows:

FPLC instrument:

Äkta prime (from Pharmacia Biotech)

FPLC-column:

HiTrapTMQ (5 ml) stacked onto Resource® Q (6 ml) (from Pharmacia

Biotech)

eluents

buffer A: 25 mM Tris/HCl (pH 7.5)

buffer B: 25 mM Tris/HCl (pH 7.5) containing 1 M KCl

temperature

eluent bottles and fractions in ice bath,

flow

3 ml/min

detection

UV 280nm

Pump table:

0.0 min 100% A 0% B

linear gradient to 2.0 min

90% A 10% B

5.0 min

90% A 10% B

 linear gradient to 30.0 min
 50% A
 50% B

 linear gradient to 40.0 min
 0% A
 100% B

 50.0min
 0% A
 100% B

Enzyme activity eluted with 35%-40% buffer B. The active fractions were pooled and concentrated by centrifugal filtration through BiomaxTM filters with an exclusion limit of 5kD (commercially available from Millipore Corp., Bedford, MA) at 5000 rpm and then rediluted in disruption buffer containing 20% glycerol to a volume of 5 ml containing 3-10 mg/ml protein. This enriched enzyme solution contained at least 25% of the original enzyme activity.

The enzyme was further purified by size exclusion chromatography. Size exclusion chromatography conditions were as follows:

FPLC instrument: Äkta prime (from Pharmacia Biotech)

FPLC-column: HiLoad 26/60 Superdex® 200 prep grade (from Pharmacia Biotech)

sample: 3-5 ml enriched enzyme solution from the anion chromatography step

sample preparation: filtered through 45 µm filter

eluent buffer: PP-buffer (pH 7.0) + 0.1 M KCl

temperature: 4°C

flow: 2 ml/min detection: UV 280nm

Enzyme activity eluted between 205-235 ml eluent buffer. The active fractions were pooled, concentrated by centrifugal filtration through Biomax TM filters with an exclusion limit of 5 kD (from Millipore) at 5000 rpm, and rediluted in disruption buffer containing 20% glycerol to form a solution of 0.5-1 ml containing 2-5mg/ml protein. This enriched enzyme solution contained 10% of the original enzyme activity. This enzyme preparation, when checked for purity by SDS page, (*see*, generally, Laemmli, U.K., *Nature* 227:680-685, 1970 and Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, *supra*) and stained with Coomassie blue, showed one dominant protein band with a molecular weight of 45-50 kD, according to reference proteins of known molecular weight.

EXAMPLE VI

Attempted Isolation of P450 Monooxygenase Genes From Streptomyces Strains R-922 and I-1529

Based on results described above that suggested the enzyme from strain R-922 that is responsible for the regiospecific oxidation of avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin is a P450 monooxygenase, a direct PCR-based approach to clone P450 monooxygenase genes from this strain was initiated (*see*, generally, Hyun *et al.*, *J. Microbiol. Biotechnol.* 8(3):295-299, 1998). This approach is based on the fact that all P450 monooxygenase enzymes contain highly conserved oxygen-binding and heme-binding domains that are also conserved at the nucleotide level. PCR primers were designed to prime to these conserved domains and to amplify the DNA fragment from P450 genes using R-922 or I-1529 genomic DNA as a template. The PCR primers used are shown in Table 1.

Table 1

O ₂ -E	indi	ing	Doma	in 1	Prim	ers	(5' to	o 3')*	Degeneracy	SEQ ID NOs	
I	A	G	Н	E	\mathbf{T}	T				43	
ATC	GCS	GGS	CAC	GAG	ACS	S AC			8	44	
V	A	G	Н	Е	${f T}$	\mathbf{T}				45	<u>-</u>
GTS	GCS	GGS	CAC	C GAG	ACS	AC			16	46	
L	A	G	Н	E	T	T				47	
CTS	GCS	GGS	CAC	C GAG	ACS	S AC			16	48	
L	L	L	I	A	G	H	E	\mathbf{T}		49	
TS	CTS	CTS	ATC	C GCS	GGS	CA(C GAG	G AC ^{&}	32	50	
		1 4 10 10 10 10									
Hem	e-Bin	ding	Dom	ain P	rimei	·s (3'	to 5')	*			
Н	Q	С	L	G	Q	N	L	A		51	
GTG	GTC	ACG	GAS	CCS	TGC	$\mathbf{T}\mathbf{T}\mathbf{G}$	GAS	CG ^{&}	8	52	
F	G	Н	G	V	H	Q	С			53	
AAG	CCS	GTG	CCS	CAS	GTG	GTC	ACG		8	54	
F	G	F	G	V	Н	Q	С			55	
AAG	GCS	AAG	CCS	CAS	GTG	GTC	ACG		8	56	
F	G	Н	G	I	Н	Q	С		,	57	
AAG	CCS	GTG	CCS	TAG	GTG	GTC	ACG		4	58	

F	G	Н	G	V	Н	F	С		59
AAG	CCS	GTG	CCS	CAS	GTG	AAG	ACG	8	60

^{*} The amino acid sequence is shown on the top line and the corresponding nucleotide sequence is shown below on the second line; S=G or C.

PCR amplification using any of the primers specific to nucleotide sequences encoding the O₂-binding domain with any of the primers specific to the nucleotide sequences encoding the heme-binding domain and genomic DNA from *Streptomyces* strains R-922 or I-1529 resulted in the amplification of an approximately 350 bp DNA fragment. This is exactly the size that would be expected from this PCR amplification due to the approximately 350 bp separation in P450 genes of the gene segments encoding the O₂-binding and heme-binding sites.

The 350 bp PCR fragments were cloned into the pCR2.1-TOPO TA cloning plasmid (commercially available Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA) and transformed into *E. coli* strain TOP10 (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA). Approximately 150 individual clones from strains R-922 and I-1529 were sequenced to determine how many unique P450 gene fragments were represented. Analysis of the sequences revealed that they included 8 unique P450 gene fragments from strain R-922 and 7 unique fragments from I-1529.

Blast analysis (alignment of the deduced amino acid sequences of P450 gene-specific PCR fragments derived from *Streptomyces tubercidicus* strain R-922 and *Streptomyces* strain I-1529, respectively, and the P450 monooxygenase from *S. thermotolerans* that is involved in the synthesis of carbomycin (Stol-ORFA) (GenBank Accession No. D30759) by the program Pretty from the University of Wisconsin Package version 10.1 (Altschul *et al.*, *Nucl. Acids Res.* 25:3389-3402). demonstrated that all of the unique P450 gene fragments from both the R-922 and I-1529 strains were derived from P450 genes and encoded the region between the O₂-binding and heme-binding domains.

Next, in order to clone the full-length genes from which the PCR fragments were derived, the DNA fragments cloned by PCR were used as hybridization probes to gene libraries containing genomic DNA from strains R-922 and I-1529. To do this, genomic DNA from the R-922 and I-1529 strains was partially digested with Sau3A I, dephosphorylated with

[&] This primer was described by Hyun et al., supra

calf intestinal alkaline phosphatase (CIP) and ligated into the cosmid pPEH215, a modified version of SuperCos 1 (commercially available from Stratagene, La Jolla, CA). Ligation products were packaged using the Gigapack III XL packaging extract and transfected into *E. coli* XL1 Blue MR host cells. Twelve cosmids that strongly hybridized to the PCR-generated P450 gene fragments were identified from the R-922 library, from which three unique P-450 genes were subcloned and sequenced. The hybridizations were performed at high stringency conditions according to the protocol of Church and Gilbert (Church and Gilbert, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 81:1991-1995, 1984). In brief, these high stringency conditions include Hybrid Buffer containing 500 mM Na-phosphate, 1 mM EDTA, 7% SDS, 1% BSA; Wash Buffer 1 containing 40 mM Na-phosphate, 1 mM EDTA, 5% SDS, 0.5% BSA; and Wash Buffer 2 containing 40 mM Na-phosphate, 1 mM EDTA, 1% SDS (Note that other high stringency hybridizations conditions are described, for example, in <u>Current Protocols in Molecular Biology</u>, *supra*.) Nineteen strongly hybridizing cosmids were identified from the I-1529 library, and from these, four unique P-450 genes were subcloned and sequenced.

In yet a further approach to isolate diverse P450 monooxygenase genes from strains R-922 and I-1529, a known P450 gene from another bacterium was used as a hybridization probe to identify cosmid clones containing homologous P450 genes from strains R-922 and I-1529. The *epoF* P450 gene from *Sorangium cellulosum* strain So ce90 that is involved in the synthesis of epothilones (Molnar *et al.*, *Chem Biol.* 7(2):97-109, 2000) was used as a probe in this effort. Using the *epoF* P450 gene probe, one cosmid was identified from strain R-922 (clone LC), and threewere identified from strain I-1529 (clones LA, LB, and EA). In each case, the homologous gene fragment was subcloned and sequenced, and found to code for P450 monooxygenase enzymes.

However, a comparison of the 17 polypeptide sequences identified in Example VII (below) failed to match any of these cloned genes. Two of the polypeptide sequences (namely, LVKDDPALLPR and AVHELMR) mapped to the region between the O₂ and heme binding domains, and so these should have identified any of the partial gene fragments derived by the PCR approach. Thus, the standard approaches based on the known PCR technique of Hyun et al., *supra*, and using known P450 genes as hybridization probes failed to identify the gene that encodes the specific P450 monooxygenase responsible for the regioselective

oxidation of avermectin. Accordingly, it was determined that additional experimentation was required to isolate the gene encoding the P450 monooxygenase of the invention.

EXAMPLE VII

Partial Sequencing of the P450 Monooxygenase from Streptomyces Strain R-922

Partial amino acid sequencing of the P450 monooxygenase from *Streptomyces* strain R-922 was carried out by the Friedrich Miescher Institute, Basel Switzerland. The protein of the dominant band on the SDS page was tryptically digested and the formed peptides separated and sequenced by mass spectrometry and Edman degradation (*see*, generally, Zerbe-Burkhardt *et al.*, *J. Biol. Chem.* 273:6508, 1998). The sequence of the following 17 peptides were found:

Sequence Sequence I.D. No.

HPGEPNVMDPALITDPFTGYGALR	(SEQ ID NO:61)
FVNNPASPSLNYAPEDNPLTR	(SEQ ID NO:62)
LLTHYPDISLGIAPEHLER	(SEQ ID NO:63)
VYLLGSILNYDAPDHTR	(SEQ ID NO:64)
TWGADLISMDPDR	(SEQ ID NO:65)
EALTDDLLSELIR	(SEQ ID NO:66)
FMDDSPVWLVTR	(SEQ ID NO:67)
LMEMLGLPEHLR	(SEQ ID NO:68)
VEQIADALLAR	(SEQ ID NO:69)
LVKDDPALLPR	(SEQ ID NO:70)
DDPALLPR	(SEQ ID NO:71)
TPLPGNWR .	(SEQ ID NO:72)
LNSLPVR	(SEQ ID NO:73)
ITDLRPR	(SEQ ID NO:74)
EQGPVVR	(SEQ ID NO:75)
AVHELMR	(SEQ ID NO:76)

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AFTAR (SEQ ID NO:77) FEEVR (SEQ ID NO:78)

Alignment of these peptides to a selection of actinomycete P450 monooxygenase sequences indicated that all the peptides were fragments of a single P450 mono-oxygenase.

EXAMPLE VIII

Cloning the P450 Monooxygenase Gene from Strain R-922 that Encodes the Enzyme Responsible for the Oxidation of Avermectin to 4"-Keto-Avermectin

PCR primers were designed by reverse translation from the amino acid sequences of several of the peptides derived from the P450 enzyme of strain R-922 (see Example VII and Table 2 below). Each of five forward primers (2aF, 2bF, 3F, 1F, and 7F) was paired with one reverse primer (5R) in PCR reactions with R-922 genomic DNA as a template. In each reaction, a DNA fragment of the expected size was produced.

Table 2

Primer	Primer	seqi	lence	e and	d the	e am:	ino a	acid	Degen-	Expected	SEQ
	sequen	ce to	o wh:	ich	they	wer	e de:	signed*	eracy	size	ID
										(bp) **	NO:
2aF	P	G	E	D	N	V	M		64	600	79
	5'-CCS	GGS	GAR	CCS	AAY	GTS	ATG-	-3 <i>'</i>			80
2bF	A	L	I	T	D	P	F		32	580	81
	5'-GCS	CTS	ATY	ACS	GAC	CCS	TTC-	-3′			82
3F	F	M	D	D	S	Р	V	W	32	549	83
	5'-TTC	ATG	GAC	GAC	WSS	CCS	GTS	TGG-3′			84
1F	L	N	Y	D	A	Р	D	Н	32	350	85
	5'-CTS	AAY	TAY	GAC	GCS	CCS	GAC	CAC-3′			86
7F	V	E	Q	I	A	D	A	L	32	300	87
	5'-GTS	GAR	CAG	ATY	GCS	GAC	GCS	CTS-3'			88
5R	D	L	I	S	M	D	Р	D	64		89
	3'-CTG	GAS	TAR	WSS	TAC	CTG	GGS	CTG-5'			90

^{*} Ambiguity codes: Y=C or T; R=A or G; S=C or G; W=A or T

** Expected size of PCR product when the primer is when paired with primer 5R

The 580 and 600 bp PCR fragments generated by using primers (2bF and 5R) and (2aF and 5R), respectively, were cloned into the pCR-Blunt II-TOPO cloning plasmid (commercially available from Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA) and transformed into *E. coli* strain TOP10 (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA). The inserted DNA fragments were then sequenced. Examination of the sequences revealed that the 600 and 580 bp fragments were identical in the 580 bp of sequence that they have in common. Also, there was a perfect match between the deduced amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:2) derived from the nucleotide sequence of the 600 bp and 580 bp fragments and the amino acid sequences of peptides isolated from the purified P450_{Ema1} enzyme that aligned in this region of the isolated gene. This result strongly suggested that the gene fragments isolated in these clones are derived from the gene that encodes the P450_{Ema1} enzyme that is responsible for the oxidation of avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin.

The 600 bp PCR fragment produced using primers 2aF (SEQ ID No:80) and 5R (SEQ ID No:90) was used as a hybridization probe to a cosmid library of genomic DNA isolated from strain R-922 (cosmid library described in Example VI). Two cosmids named pPEH249 and pPEH250 were identified that hybridized strongly with the probe. The portion of each cosmid encoding the P450 enzyme was sequenced and the sequences were found to be identical between the two cosmids. The complete coding sequence of the *ema1* gene was identified (SEQ ID NO:1). The amino acid sequence of all polypeptide fragments from P450_{Ema1} matched perfectly with the deduced amino acid sequence from the *ema1* gene. Comparison of the deduced amino acid sequence of the protein encoded by the *ema1* gene using BLASTP (Altschul *et al.*, *supra*) determined that the closest match in the databases is to a P450 monooxygenase from *S. thermotolerans* that has a role in the biosynthesis of carbomycin (Arisawa *et al.*, *Biosci. Biotech. Biochem.* **59**(4):582-588, 1995) and whose identity with *ema1* is only 49% (Identities = 202/409 (49%), Positives = 271/409 (65%), Gaps = 2/409 (0%)). In the Blast analysis, the following settings were employed:

```
BLASTP 2.0.10
Lambda
                  H
   0.322
            0.140
                     0.428
Gapped
Lambda
   0.270
           0.0470
                     0.230
Matrix: BLOSUM62
Gap Penalties: Existence: 11, Extension: 1
Number of Hits to DB: 375001765
Number of Sequences: 1271323
Number of extensions: 16451653
Number of successful extensions: 46738
Number of sequences better than 10.0: 2211
Number of HSP's better than 10.0 without gapping: 628
Number of HSP's successfully gapped in prelim test: 1583
Number of HSP's that attempted gapping in prelim test: 43251
Number of HSP's gapped (non-prelim): 2577
length of query: 430
length of database: 409,691,007
effective HSP length: 55
effective length of query: 375
effective length of database: 339,768,242
effective search space: 127413090750
effective search space used: 127413090750
```

A similar comparison of the nucleotide sequences of these two genes demonstrated that they are 65% identical at the nucleotide level. These results demonstrate that $P450_{Ema1}$ is a new enzyme.

EXAMPLE IX

Heterologous Expression of the emal Gene in Streptomyces lividans Strain ZX7

The coding sequence of the *ema1* gene was fused to the thiostrepton-inducible promoter (*tipA*) (Murakami *et al.*, *J. Bacteriol.* **171**:1459-1466, 1989). The *tipA* promoter was derived from plasmid pSIT151 (Herron and Evans, *FEMS Microbiology Letters* **171**:215-221, 1999).

The fusion of the *tipA* promoter and the *ema1* coding sequence was achieved by first amplifying the *ema1* coding sequence with the following primers to introduce a PacI cloning site at the 5' end and a PmeI compatible end on the 3' end.

Forward Primer: The underlined sequence is a PacI recognition sequence; the sequence in bold-face type is the start of the coding sequence of *ema1*.

5'-AGA<u>TTAATTAATGTCGGAATTAATGAACTGTCCGTT</u>-3' (SEQ ID NO:91)

Reverse Primer: The underlined sequence is half of a PmeI recognition sequence; the bold-face type sequence is the reverse complement of the *ema1* translation stop codon followed by the 3' end of the *ema1* coding sequence.

5'-AAACTCACCCCAACCGCACCGGCAGCGAGTTC-3" (SEQ ID NO:92)

The PacI-digested PCR fragment containing the *ema1* coding sequence was cloned into plasmid pTBBKA (*see* Figure 1) that was restricted (*i.e.*, digested) with PacI and PmeI, and the ligated plasmid transformed into *E. coli*. Four clones were sequenced. Three of the four contained the complete and correct *ema1* coding sequence. The fourth *ema1* gene clone contained a truncated version of the *ema1* gene. The full-length *ema1* gene encodes a protein that begins with the amino acid sequence MSELMNS (SEQ ID NO:93). The truncated gene encodes a protein that lacks the first 4 amino acids and begins with the second methionine residue. This gene has been named *ema1A*. The nucleotide and amino acid sequence of *ema1A* are provided as SEQ ID NO:33 and SEQ ID NO:34, respectively. The *ema1* and *ema1A* genes in these plasmids, pTBBKA-*ema1* and pTBBKA-*ema1A*, are in the correct juxtaposition with the *tipA* promoter to cause expression of the genes from this promoter.

Plasmid pTBBKA contains a gene from the *Streptomyces* insertion element IS117 that encodes an integrase that catalyzes site-specific integration of the plasmid into the chromosome of *Streptomyces* species (Henderson *et al.*, *Mol. Microbiol.* 3:1307-1318, 1989 and Lydiate *et al.*, *Mol. Gen. Genet.* 203:79-88, 1986). Since plasmid pTBBKA has only an *E. coli* replication origin and contains a mobilization site, it can be transferred from *E. coli* to *Streptomyces* strains by conjugation where it will not replicate. However, it is able to integrate into the chromosome due to the IS117 integrase and *Streptomyces* clones containing chromosomal integrations can be selected by resistance to kanamycin due to the plasmid-borne kanamycin resistance gene.

The *ema1* coding sequence was also cloned into other plasmids that are either replicative in *Streptomyces* or, like pTBBKA, integrate into the chromosome upon introduction into a *Streptomyces* host. For example, *ema1* was cloned into plasmid pEAA, which is similar to plasmid pTBBKA but the KpnI/PacI fragment containing the *tipA* promoter was replaced with the *ermE* gene promoter (Schmitt-John and Engels, *Appl*

Microbiol Biotechnol. **36**(4):493-498, 1992). In addition, pEAA does not contain the kanamycin resistance gene. The *ema1* gene was cloned into pEAA as a PacI/PmeI fragment to create plasmid pEAA-*ema1* in which the *ema1* gene is expressed from the constitutive *ermE* promoter.

Plasmid pTUA1A is a *Streptomyces-E.coli* shuttle plasmid (*see* Figure 2) that contains the *tipA* promoter. The *ema1* gene was also cloned into the PacI/PmeI site in plasmid pTUA1A to create plasmid pTUA-*ema1*.

The *ema1A* gene fragment was also ligated as a PacI/PmeI fragment into plasmids pTUA1A, and pEAA in the same way as the *ema1* gene fragment to create plasmids pTUA-ema1A, and pEAA-ema1A, respectively.

The pTBBKA, pTUA1A, and pEAA based plasmids containing the *ema1* or *ema1A* genes were introduced into *S. lividans* ZX7 and in each case transformants were obtained and verified (*S. lividans* strains ZX7::pTBBKA-*ema1* or *ema1A*, ZX7 (pTUA-*ema1* or *-ema1A*), and ZX7::pEAA-*ema1* or *-ema1A*, respectively).

Wild-type *Streptomyces lividans* strain ZX7 was tested and found to be incapable of the oxidation of avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin. Transformed *S. lividans* strains ZX7::pTBBKA-ema1, ZX7::pTBBKA-ema1A, ZX7 (pTUA-ema1), ZX7 (pTUA-ema1A), ZX7::pEAA-ema1, and ZX7::pEAA-ema1A were each tested for the ability to oxidize avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin using resting cells. To do this, the whole cell biocatalysis assay described above (including analysis method) was performed. Note that for the whole cell biocatalysis assay, transformed *Streptomyces lividans*, like strain R-922, was grown in PHG medium and, again like strain R-922, had a reaction time of 16 hours (*i.e.*, during which time the 500 mg transformed *Streptomyces lividans* wet cells in 10 ml of 50 mM potassium phosphate buffer, pH 7.0, were shaken at 160 rpm at 28°C in the presence of 15 µl of a solution of avermectin in isopropanol (30 mg/ml)).

In the presence of the inducer, thiostrepton (5 ug/ml), the *ema1*- or *ema1A*-containing strains ZX7::pTBBKA-*ema1*, ZX7::pTBBKA-*ema1A*, ZX7 (pTUA-*ema1*), ZX7 (pTUA-*ema1A*) were found to oxidize avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin as evidenced by the appearance of the oxidized 4"-keto-avermectin compound (*see* Table 3).

Table 3

Beispiel 1: Strain	% Conversion of	f Avermectin
	2 hour	16 hour
Streptomyces lividans ZX7 + Plasmid ¹		
None	0	0
pTBBKA-ema1A	0.5 ±0.059	1.17 ±0.112
pTBBKA-emal	0.21 ±0.0.356	0.65 ±0.079
pTUA-ema1	20.96 ±1.044	42.0 ±2.5
pEAA-ema1	3.0 ±0.232	24.1 ±0.358
pTBBKA-ema2	4.79 ±0.096	9.57 ±0.423
pTUA-ema2	0.77 ±0.138	2.05 ±0.537
pEAA-ema2	0.0	1.73 ±3.00
pTBBKA-ema1/fd233	8.89 ±0.720	30.99 ±0.880
pTUA-ema1/fd233	23.29 ±0.854	61.2 ±3.548
pEAA-ema1/fd233	8.26 ±0.845	10.66 ±0.858
pTUA-ema2/fd233	1.85 ±0.861	6.40 ±1.918
Pseudomonas putida S12 + Plasmid		
None		0
pRK-ema1	ND ²	18
pRK-ema1/fd233	ND	32

¹pTBBKA= IS117 integrase, tipA promoter; pTUA= replicative plasmid, tipA promoter; pEAA= IS117 integrase, ermE promoter

These results conclusively demonstrate that the $P450_{Ema1}$ enzyme encoded by the *ema1* gene is responsible for the oxidation of avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin in *S. tubercidicus* strain R-922. Furthermore, the data demonstrates that the *ema1A* gene that is 4 amino acids shorter on the N-terminus than the native *ema1* gene also encodes an active $P450_{Ema1}$ enzyme. As can be demonstrated by HPLC analysis, oxidation of avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin by *S*.

²Not Determined

lividans strain ZX7::pTBBKA-ema1 following induction of ema1 expression with 0, 0,5, or 5.0 μg/ml thiostrepton. is variable depending upon the amount of thiostrepton used to induce expression of ema1. Note that S. lividans strains ZX7::pEAA-ema1 and ZX7::pEAA-ema1A (see Table 3) demonstrated this oxidation activity in the absence of thiostrepton since in these strains the ema1 or ema1A genes are expressed from the ermE promoter that does not require induction.

EXAMPLE X

Isolation of an emal-Homologous Gene From Streptomyces tubercidicus Strain I-1529

Streptomyces tubercidicus strain I-1529 was also found to be active in biocatalysis of avermectin to form the 4"-keto-avermectin derivative. The cosmid library from strain I-1529, described in Example VI, was probed at the high stringency conditions of Church and Gilbert (Church and Gilbert, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 81:1991-1995, 1984) with the 600 bp emal PCR fragment produced using primers 2aF (SEQ ID No:80) and 5R (SEQ ID No:90) described previously to identify clones containing the emal homolog from strain I-1529. Three strongly hybridizing cosmids were identified. The P450 gene regions in two of the cosmids, pPEH252 and pPEH253, were sequenced and found to be identical. Analysis of the DNA sequence revealed the presence of a gene with high homology to the emal gene of strain R-922. A comparison of the deduced amino acid sequence of Ema2 (i.e., P450_{Ema2}), Emal (i.e., P450_{Ema1}), and a P450 monooxygenase from Streptomyces thermotolerans that is involved in the biosynthesis of carbomycin (Carb-450) (GenBank Accession No. D30759). demonstrated that all of the unique P450 gene fragments from both the R-922 and I-1529 strains were derived from P450 genes and encoded the region between the O₂-binding and heme-binding domains.

The gene from *Streptomyces tubercidicus* strain I-1529, named *ema2*, encodes an enzyme with 90% identity at the amino acid level and 90.6% identity at the nucleotide level to the P450_{Ema1} enzyme. The nucleotide sequence of the *ema2* gene and the deduced amino acid sequence of P450_{Ema2} are provided in SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:4, respectively.

The *ema2* coding sequence was cloned in the same manner as the *ema1* and *ema1A* genes into plasmids pTBBKA, pTUA1A, and pEAA such that the coding sequence was

functionally fused to the *tipA* or *ermE** promoter in these plasmids. The resulting plasmids, pTBBKA-*ema2*, pTUA-*ema2*, and pEAA-*ema2* were transferred from *E. coli* to *S. lividans* ZX7 by conjugation to create strains ZX7::TBBKA-*ema2* and ZX7 (pTUA-*ema2*), and ZX7::pEAA-*ema2* containing the *ema2* gene integrated into the chromosome or maintained on a plasmid.

Strains ZX7::TBBKA-ema2, ZX7 (pTUA-ema2), and ZX7::pEAA-ema2 were next tested for the ability to oxidize avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin. The ema2 gene was also shown to provide biocatalysis activity, although at a lower level compared to the ema1 gene (see Table 3).

These results demonstrate that the *ema2* gene from *S. tubercidicus* strain I-1529 also encodes a P450 enzyme (P450 $_{\rm Ema2}$) capable of oxidizing avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin.

EXAMPLE XI

Characterization of emal Homologs From Other Biocatalysis Strains

Seventeen *Streptomyces* sp. strains, including strains R-922 and I-1529, were identified that are capable of catalyzing the regiospecific oxidation of the 4"-carbinol of avermectin to a ketone. Next, the isolation and characterization of the genes encoding the biocatalysis enzyme from all of these strains was accomplished.

To do this, genomic DNA was isolated from the strains and was evaluated by restriction with several restriction endonucleases and Southern hybridization with the *ema1* gene. A specific restriction endonuclease was identified for each DNA that would generate a single DNA fragment of a defined size to which the *ema1* gene hybridizes. For each strain, there was only one strongly hybridizing DNA fragment, thus suggesting that other P450 genes were not detected under the high stringency hybridization conditions used in these experiments. Each DNA was digested with the appropriate restriction endonuclease, and the DNA was subjected to agarose gel electrophoresis. DNA in a narrow size range that included the size of the *ema1*-hybridizing fragment was excised from the gel. The size selected DNA was ligated into an appropriate cloning plasmid and this ligated plasmid was used to transform *E. coli*. The *E. coli* clones from each experiment were screened by colony hybridization with the *ema1* gene fragment to identify clones containing the *ema1*-homologous DNA fragment.

The nucleotide sequence of the cloned DNA in each *ema1*-homologous clone was determined and examined for the presence of a gene encoding a P450 enzyme with homology to *ema1*. In this way, *ema1*-homologous genes were isolated from 14 of the 15 other active strains. The nucleotide and deduced amino acid sequences of these are referenced in Table 4 as SEQ ID NOS:5-32 and 94-95. The relationship of these enzymes can be shown in the form of a phylogenetic tree. Such a phylogenetic tree can be generated using the commercially available GCG Wisconsin software program version 1.0 (Madison, WI).

Table 4

Strain Number		Classification	SEQ ID NO (nucleotide and amino acid, respectively)
R-0922	ema1	Streptomyces tubercidicus	2. 1 and 2
I-1529	ema2	Streptomyces tubercidicus	3 and 4
1053	ета3	Streptomyces rimosus	5 and 6
R-0401	ema4	Streptomyces lydicus	7 and 8
I-1525	ema5	Streptomyces sp.	9 and 10
DSM-40241	ета6	Streptomyces chattanoogensis*	3. 11 and 12
IHS-0435	ema7	Streptomyces sp.	13 and 14
C-00083	ema8	Streptomyces albofaciens	15 and 16
MAAG-7479	ema9	Streptomyces platensis	17 and 18
A/96-1208710	ema10	Streptomyces kasugaensis	4. 19 and 20
R-2374	ema11	Streptomyces rimosus	21 and 22
MAAG-7027	ema12	Streptomyces tubercidicus	5. 23 and 24
Tue-3077	ema13	Streptomyces platensis	25 and 26
I-1548	ema14	Streptomyces platensis	27 and 28
NRRL-2433	ema15	Streptomyces lydicus	6. 29 and 30
MAAG-0114	ema16	Streptomyces lydicus	31 and 32
DSM-40261	ema17	Streptomyces tubercidicus	94 and 95

^{*} This strain was shown to be in the *chattanoogensis* species by 16s rDNA analysis; however, classical taxonomic methods used by the German culture collection (DSMZ) showed it to be saraceticus.

EXAMPLE XII

Construction of His-tagged emal and emal Homologs to Facilitate Enzyme Purification

In order to purify the P450_{Ema1} enzyme and the P450 enzymes encoded by the ema1 homologs from other biocatalysis strains, each of the P450 genes was cloned into the *E. coli* expression plasmid pET-28b(+) (commercially available from Novagen, Madison, WI). The pET-28 plasmids are designed to facilitate His-tag fusions at either the N-, or C-terminus and to provide strong expression of the genes in *E. coli* from the T7 phage promoter. In many cases, the coding sequence of the *ema* genes begins with the sequence ATGT. These genes were amplified by PCR such that the primers on the 5' end incorporated a PciI recognition site (5' ATATGT 3') at the 5' terminus. The last four bases of the PciI site correspond to the ATGT at the beginning of the *ema* gene coding sequence.

PCR primers at the 3' end of the genes were designed to remove the translation stop codon at the end of the *ema* gene coding sequence and to add an XhoI recognition site to the 3' terminus. The resulting PCR fragments were restricted with PciI and XhoI to generate PciI ends at the 5' termini and XhoI ends at the 3' termini, thereby facilitating cloning of the fragments into pET-28b(+) previously restricted with NcoI and XhoI. Since PciI and NcoI ends are compatible, the fragments were cloned into pET-28b(+) in the proper orientation to the T7 promoter and ribosome binding site in the plasmid to provide expression of the genes.

At the 3' end of each *ema* gene, the coding sequence was fused in frame at the XhoI site to the His-tag sequence followed by a translation stop codon. This results in the production of an Ema enzyme with six histidine residues added to the C-terminus to facilitate purification on nickel columns.

In the case of *ema* genes in which the ATG translation initiation codon is not followed by a T nucleotide, the *ema* genes were amplified by PCR using a different strategy for the 5' end. The primers at the 5' end were designed to incorporate a C immediately preceding the ATG translation initiation codon and the primers at the 3' end were the same as described above. The PCR fragments that were amplified were restricted with XhoI to create an XhoI end at the 3'-terminus and the 5' end was left as a blunt end. These fragments were cloned into pET-28b(+) that had been restricted with NcoI, but the NcoI ends were made blunt-ended by treatment with mung bean exonuclease, and restricted with XhoI.

In this manner, the *ema* genes were cloned into pET-28b(+) to create a functional fusion with the T7 promoter and the His-tag at the C-terminus as described previously. All Histagged *ema* genes were sequenced to ensure that no errors were introduced by PCR.

Large amounts of the P450_{Ema1} and P450_{Ema2} enzymes were isolated and purified by standard protocols. *E. coli* strain BL21 DE3 (commercially available from Invitrogen; Carlsbad, CA) containing the T7 RNA polymerase gene under the control of the inducible *tac* promoter and the appropriate pET-28/*ema* plasmid was cultured and the cells were harvested and lysed. The lysates were applied to Ni-NTA columns (commercially available from Qiagen Inc., Valencia, CA) and the protein were purified according to the procedure recommended by the manufacturer.

Purified His-tagged P450_{Ema1} and P450_{Ema2} were highly active in *in vitro* activity assays as evidenced by a high rate of conversion of avermectin to 4"-keto-avemectin.

EXAMPLE XIII

Expression of emal in Pseudomonas

The ema1 gene constructs were next introduced into *P. putida* (wildtype *P. putida* commercially available from the American Type Culture Collection, Manassas, Virginia; ATCC Nos. 700801 and 17453). The *ema1* and *ema1/fd233* gene fragments were cloned as PacI/PmeI fragments into the plasmid pUK21 (Viera and Messing, *Gene* 100:189-194, 1991). The fragments were cloned into a position located between the tac promoter (P_{tac}) and terminator (T_{tac}) on pUK21 in the proper orientation for expression from the tac promoter. The P_{tac}-*ema1*-T_{tac} and P_{tac}-*ema1/fd233*-T_{tac} gene fragments were removed from pUK21 as BgIII fragments and these were cloned into the broad host-range, transmissible plasmid, pRK290 (Ditta *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 77:7347-7351, 1980) to create plasmids pRK-*ema1* and pRK-*ema1/fd233* (Figure 3). These plasmids were introduced into *P. putida* strains ATCC 700801 and ATCC 17453 by conjugal transfer from *E. coli* hosts by standard methodology (Ditta *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 77:7347-7351, 1980).

P. putida ATCC 700801 and ATCC 17453 containing plasmids pRK-ema1 or pRK-ema1/fd233 were tested for the ability to catalyze the oxidation of avermectin. The results shown in Table 3 demonstrate that these strains are able to catalyze this reaction.

EXAMPLE XIV

Identification of Genes Encoding Ferredoxins That Are Active With the P450_{Ema1} Monooxygenase

P450 monooxygenases require two electrons for each hydroxylation reaction catalyzed (Mueller *et al.*, "Twenty-five years of P450_{cam} research: Mechanistic Insights into Oxygenase Catalysis." Cytochrome P450, 2nd Edition, P.R. Ortiz de Montellano (ed.), pp. 83-124; Plenum Press, NY 1995). These electrons are transferred to the P450 monooxygenase one at a time by a ferredoxin. The electrons are ultimately derived from NAD(P)H and are passed to the ferredoxin by a ferredoxin reductase. Specific P-450 monooxygenase enzymes have a higher activity when they interact with a specific ferredoxin. In many cases, the gene encoding a ferredoxin that interacts specifically with a given P450 monooxygenase is located adjacent to the gene encoding the P450 enzyme.

As described above, in addition to the *ema1* gene, four P450 genes from strain R-922 and seven P450 genes from strain I-1529 (*see* Example VI) were isolated and sequenced. In some of these, there was sufficient sequence information about the DNA flanking the P-450 genes to look for the presence of associated ferredoxin genes. By this approach, two unique ferredoxin genes were identified from each of the two strains. Ferredoxin genes *fd229* and *fd230* were identified from strain R-922, and *fd233* and *fdEA* were identified from strain I-1529. In addition, a ferredoxin reductase gene was found to reside adjacent to the *fdEA* gene from strain I-1529.

In order to test the biological activity of each of these ferredoxins in combination with P450_{Ema1}, each individual ferredoxin gene was amplified by PCR to produce a gene fragment that included a blunt 5'-end, the native ribosome-binding site and ferredoxin gene coding sequence, and a PmeI restriction site on the 3'-end. Each such ferredoxin gene fragment was cloned into the PmeI site located 3' to the *ema1* gene in plasmid pTUA-*ema1*. In this way, artificial operons consisting of the *ema1* gene and one of the ferredoxin genes operably linked to a functional promoter were created.

In the case of the fdEA ferredoxin gene in which a ferredoxin reductase gene, freEA, was found to be located adjacent to the fdEA gene, a DNA fragment containing both the fdEA and freEA genes was generated by a similar PCR strategy. This gene fragment was also cloned in the PmeI site of plasmid pTUA-ema1 as described for the other ferredoxin genes.

Each *ema1*-ferredoxin gene combination was tested for biological activity by introduction of the individual *ema1*-ferredoxin gene plasmids into *S. lividans* strain ZX7. The biocatalysis activity derived from each plasmid in *S. lividans* was determined. Of the four different constructs, only the ferredoxin gene *fd233* derived from strain I-1529 provided increased activity when compared to the expression of *ema1* alone in the same plasmid and host background (*see* Table 3). The pTUA-*ema1/fd233* plasmid in *S. lividans* provided approximately 1.5 to 3- fold higher activity compared to the pTUA-*ema1* plasmid. The other three plasmids containing the other ferredoxin genes gave results essentially the same as the plasmid with only the *ema1* gene. Likewise, the pTUA-*ema1lfd*EA/*fre*EA plasmid did not yield results different from those of pTUA-*ema1*. The nucleotide and deduced amino acid sequences of the *fd233* gene are shown in SEQ ID NOs:35 and 36, respectively.

A BLAST analysis of the nucelotide and amino acid sequences of *fd233* revealed that the closest matches were to ferredoxins from *S. coelicolor* (GenBank Accession AL445945) and *S. lividans* (GenBank Accession AF072709). At the nucleotide level, *fd233* shares 80 and 79.8 % identity with the ferredoxin genes from *S. coelicolor* and *S. lividans*, respectively. At the peptide level, *fd233* shares 79.4 and 77.8% identity with the ferredoxins from *S. coelicolor* and *S. lividans*, respectively.

Since fd233 is derived from strain I-1529 and ema1 is from strain R-922, the proteins encoded by the two genes cannot interact with each other in nature. In an approach designed to identify a ferredoxin gene from strain R-922 that is homologous to the fd233 gene and that might encode a ferredoxin that interacts optimally with the P450_{Ema1}, the fd233 gene was used as a hybridization probe to a gene library of DNA from strain R-922. A strongly hybridizing cosmid, pPEH232, was identified and the hybridizing DNA was cloned and sequenced. Comparison of the deduced amino acid sequences from fd233 and the ferredoxin gene on cosmid pPEH232, fd232, revealed that they differed in only a single amino acid.

In a similar manner, plasmid pTUA-ema1-fd232 was constructed and tested in S. lividans ZX7. This plasmid gave similar results as those obtained with plasmid pTUA-ema1-fd233 (see Table 3). The nucleotide and deduced amino acid sequences of fd232 are shown in SEQ ID NOs:37 and 38, respectively.

The *ema1-fd233* operon was also subcloned, as a PacI-PmeI fragment, into pTBBKA and pEAA that had been digested with the same restriction enzymes. *S. lividans*

ZX7::pTBBKA-ema1-fd233, and S. lividans ZX7::pEAA-ema1-fd233 were tested in the avermectin conversion assay and found to have higher activities than the strains harboring the ema1 gene alone in the comparable plasmids (see Table 3).

EXAMPLE XV

Heterologous Expression of P450_{Ema1} and P450_{Ema2} in Other Cells

The expression constructs pRK-ema1 (Example XIII) and pRK-ema2 (created in a way analogous to that described in Example XIII for pRK-ema1) were mobilized by conjugation into three fluorescent soil *Pseudomonas* strains. Conjugation was performed according to standard methods (Ditta et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 77:7347-7351, 1980). The strains were: P. fluorescens MOCG134, P. fluorescens Pf-5, and P. fluorescens CHAO. Standard resting cell assays for the conversion of avermectin to 4"-ketoavermectin were conducted for each of the transconjugants. For strains Pf-5 and CHAO, the levels of conversion were below the detection limit. Strain MOCG134 yielded 3% conversion for ema1 and 5% for ema2.

In addition, the constructs listed in the Table 5 were introduced into *Streptomyces* avermitilis MOS-0001 by protoplast-mediated transformation (Kieser, T.; Bibb, M.J.; Buttner, M.J.; Chater, K.F.; Hopwood, D.A. (eds.): Practical *Streptomyces* Genetics. The John Innes Foundation, Norwich (England), 2000), (Stutzman-Engwall, K. *et al.* (1999) *Streptomyces* avermitilis gene directing the ratio of B₂:B₁ avermectins, WO 99/41389).

Table 5

Construct	% Conversion of avermectin, 16 hrs
None	0
pTBBKA-ema1	10.90 +/- 3.48
pTUA-ema1	5.326 +/- 2.19
pEAA-ema1	6.74 +/- 0.08
pTBBKA-ema1A/fd233	28.50 +/- 0.20
pTUA-ema1A/fd233	23.97 +/- 5.95

Wild-type *Str. avermitilis* MOS-0001 was tested and found to be incapable of the oxidation of avermectin to 4"-ketoavermectin.

Transformed S. avermitilis strains MOS-0001::pTBBKA-ema1, MOS-0001 (pTUA-ema1), MOS-0001::pEAA-ema1, MOS-0001::pTBBKA-ema1A/fd233, and MOS-0001 (pTUA-ema1A/fd233) were each tested for their ability to oxidize avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin using resting cells. To do this, the whole cell biocatalysis assay described above (including analysis method) was performed. Note that for the whole cell biocatalysis assay, transformed Streptomyces avermitilis, like strain R-922, was grown in PHG medium and, again like strain R-922, had a reaction time of 16 hours (i.e., during which time the 500 mg transformed Streptomyces avermitilis wet cells in 10 ml of 50 mM potassium phosphate buffer, pH 7.0, were shaken at 160 rpm at 28°C in the presence of 15 μl of a solution of avermectin in isopropanol (30 mg/ml)).

As shown in Table 5, in the presence of the inducer, thiostrepton (5 µg/ml), the ema1- or ema1A/fd233-containing strains MOS-0001::pTBBKA-ema1, MOS-0001::pTBBKA-ema1A/fd233, MOS-0001 (pTUA-ema1), MOS-0001 (pTUA-ema1A/fd233) were found to oxidize avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin as evidenced by the appearance of the oxidized 4"-keto-avermectin compound. Note that the S. avermitilis strain MOS-0001::pEAA-ema1 demonstrated this oxidation activity in the absence of thiostrepton since in this strain the ema1 gene is expressed from the ermE promoter that does not require induction.

Thus, expression of the *ema1* P450 monooxygenase gene in various *Streptomyces* and *Pseudomonas* strains provided recombinant cells that were able to convert avermectin to 4"-ketoavermectin in resting cell assays.

Next, expression and activity of P450_{Ema1} monooxygenase was tested in *E. coli*. To do this, the *ema1* gene was cloned into the *E. coli* expression plasmid pET-28b(+) (commercially available from Novagen, Madison, WI) as described previously. *E. coli* strain BL21 DE3 (commercially available from Invitrogen; Carlsbad, CA) that contains the T7 RNA polymerase gene under control of the inducible *tac* promoter and the pET-28/*ema1* plasmid was cultured in 50 ml LB medium containing 5 mg/l kanamycin in a 250-ml flask with one baffle, for 16 hours at 37°C, with shaking at 130 rpm. 0.5 ml of this culture was used to inoculate 500 ml LB medium with 5 mg/l kanamycin in a 2-liter flask with one baffle, and the

culture was incubated for 4 hours at 37°C followed by 4 hours and 30°C, with shaking at 130 rpm throughout. The cells were harvested by centrifugation, washed in 50 mM potassium phosphate buffer, and centrifuged again.

For the resting cell assays, 90 mg wet cells were weighed into deep-well plates in triplicate and resuspended in 0.5 ml 50 mM potassium phosphate buffer. For cell-free extracts, 4 grams wet cells in 8 ml disruption buffer were disrupted in French press.

For the resting cell assays, 5 µl of substrate (2.5 mg/ml in 2-propanol) was added to the cell suspension. The plate was sealed with air permeable foil, and the reaction was incubated on an orbital shaker at 1000 rpm at 28°C for 22 hours. No conversion of avermectin to 4"-ketoavermectin was detected.

For the cell-free assays, 100 µl cell free extract, 1µl substrate solution (20 mg/ml) in 2-propanol, 5 µl 100 mM NADPH, 10 µl ferredoxin, 10 µl ferredoxin reductase, and 374 µl potassium phosphate buffer pH 7.0 were added as described in Example III, and the assay was incubated at 30°C with shaking at 600 rpm for 20 hours. 9.2% +/- 0.3% of avermectin was converted to 4"-ketoavermectin.

Thus, expression of the *ema1* gene in *E. coli* resulted in the production of the active Ema1 P450 monoxygenase enzyme which, when purified from the cells, was able to convert avermectin to 4"-ketoavermectin.

EXAMPLE XVI

Identification and Cloning of Genes Encoding Ferredoxin Reductases that Support Increased

Activity of the P450_{Ema1} Monooxygenase

The electron transport pathway that supports the activity of P450 monooxygenases also includes ferredoxin reductases. These proteins donate electrons to the ferredoxin and, as is the case with ferredoxins and P450 monooxygenases, specific ferredoxin reductases are known to be better electron donors for certain ferredoxins than others.

According, a number of ferredoxin reductase genes from *Streptomyces* strains were cloned and were evaluated for their impacts on the biocatalysis reaction. To do this, numerous bacterial ferredoxin reductase (Fre) protein sequences were retrieved from NCBI and aligned with the program Pretty from the GCG package. Two conserved regions,

approximately 266 amino acid residues apart, were used to make degenerate oligonucleotides for PCR. The forward primer (CGSCCSCCSCTSWSSAAS (SEQ ID NO:96; where "S" is C or G; and "W" is A or G)) and the reverse primer (SASSGCSTTSBCCCARTGYTC (SEQ ID NO:97: where "S" is C or G; "B" is C, G, or T; "R" is A or G; and "Y" is C or T)) were used to amplify 800 bp products from the biocatalytically active Streptomyces strains R-922 and I-1529. These pools of products were cloned into TOPO TA cloning vectors (commercially available from Invitrogen Inc., Carlsbad, CA), and 20 clones each from R922 and I-1529 were sequenced according to standard methods (see, e.g., Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, eds. Ausubel et al., John Wiley & Sons, Inc. 2000). Sequencing revealed that 4 unique fre gene fragments were isolated from the strains: three from R922 (fre3, fre12, fre14) and one from I-1529 (fre16). The fre3, fre12, fre14, and fre16 gene fragments were used as probes to identify full-length ferredox in reductases from genomic clone banks of Streptomyces strains R922 and I-1529. By this approach, the complete coding sequence of each of the 4 different fre genes was cloned and sequenced. The nucleic acid and amino acid sequences are provided as follows: fre3 (SEQ ID NOs:98 and 99); fre12 (SEQ ID NOs:100 and 101); fre14 (SEQ ID NOs:102 and 103); and fre16 (SEQ ID NOs:104 and 105).

In order to assess the biological activity of each *fre* gene in relation to the activity of Ema1, each gene was inserted into the *ema1/fd233* operon described above, 3' to the *fd233* gene. This resulted in the formation of artificial operons consisting of the *ema1*, *fd233*, and individual *fre* genes that were expressed from the same promoter. The *ema1/fd233/fre* operons were cloned into the *Pseudomonas* plasmid pRK290 and introduced into 3 different *P. putida* strains. These strains were then analysed for Ema1 biocatalysis activity using the whole cell assay and one of the genes, the *fre* gene *fre*16 from strain I-1529, was found to increase the activity of P450_{Ema1} monooxygenase by approximately 2-fold. This effect was strain specific, as it was seen only in one of the *P. putida* strains, ATCC Desposit No. 17453, and not in the other two. In *P. putida* strain ATCC 17453, the presence of *fre* gene *fre*16 resulted in 44% conversion of avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin, as compared to 23% without this gene. The other *fre* genes had no impact on the biocatalysis activity in any of the *P. putida* strains tested.

In a similar approach, each of the *ema1/fd233/fre* operons were cloned into the *Streptomyces* plasmids pTUA, pTBBKA, and pEAA, and introduced into *S. lividans* strain

ZX7. In each case there was no impact in S. lividans by any of the fre genes on biocatalysis activity.

EQUIVALENTS

Those skilled in the art will recognize, or be able to ascertain, using no more than routine experimentation, numerous equivalents to the specific substances and procedures described herein. Such equivalents are considered to be within the scope of this invention.

The patent and scientific literature referred to herein establishes knowledge that is available to those with skill in the art. The issued patents, applications, and references, including GenBank database sequences, that are cited herein are hereby incorporated by reference to the same extent as if each was specifically and individually indicated to be incorporated by reference. Any conflict between any reference cited herein and the specific teachings of this specification shall be resolved in favor of the latter. Likewise, any conflict between an art-understood definition of a word or phrase and a definition of the word or phrase as specifically taught in this specification shall be resolved in favor of the latter.

What is claimed is:

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1. A purified nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide that exhibits an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase and is capable of regioselectively oxidizing the alcohol at position 4" of a compound of formular (II)

wherein

R₁-R₇ represent, independently of each other hydrogen or a substituent;

m is 0, 1 or 2;

n is 0, 1, 2 or 3; and

the bonds marked with A, B, C, D, E and F indicate, independently of each other, that two adjacent carbon atoms are connected by a double bond, a single bond, a single bond and a epoxide bridge of the formula

, or a single bond and a methylene bridge of the formula

including, where applicable, an E/Z isomer, a mixture of E/Z isomers, and/or a tautomer thereof, in each case in free form or in salt form,

in order to produce a compound of the formula (III)

$$\begin{array}{c} & & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & &$$

wherein

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R₁-R₇, m, n, A, B, C, D, E and F have the same meanings as given for formula (II) above.

- 2. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, comprising a nucleic acid sequence that encodes a polypeptide that exhibits an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase and regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"keto-avermectin.
- The nucleic acid molecule of claims 1 or 2, comprising a nucleic acid sequence that encodes a polypeptide that exhibits an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase,
 which polypeptide is substantially similar, and has between at least 50%, and 99% amino acid sequence identity to the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2.

- 4. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 3 comprising a nucleotide sequence
 - a) as given in SEQ ID NO:1;

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- b) having substantial similarity to (a);
- c) capable of hybridizing to (a) or the complement thereof;
- d) capable of hybridizing to a nucleic acid molecule comprising 50 to 200 or more consecutive nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence given in SEQ ID NO:1, or the complement thereof;
- e) complementary to (a), (b) or (c);
- f) which is the reverse complement of (a), (b) or (c); or
- g) which is a functional part of (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) or (f) encoding a polypeptide that still exhibits an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase and regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin.
 - 5. The nucleic acid molecule of claims 1 or 2, comprising a nucleic acid sequence that is at least 66 % identical to SEQ ID NO:1.
 - 6. The nucleic acid molecule of claims 1 or 2, comprising a nucleic acid sequence that encodes a polypeptide that exhibits an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase, which polypeptide is substantially similar, and has at least between 60%, and 99% amino acid sequence identity to the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:30, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO:34, or SEQ ID NO:95.
 - 7. The nucleic acid molecule of claims 1 or 2, comprising a nucleic acid sequence that encodes a polypeptide that exhibits an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase, which polypeptide is immunologically reactive with antibodies raised against a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8,
- SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18,

SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:30, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO:34, or SEQ ID NO:95.

- 8. The nucleic acid molecule of claims 1 or 2 comprising a nucleotide sequence
 - a) as given in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO:31, SEQ ID NO:33, or SEQ ID NO:94;
 - b) having substantial similarity to (a);

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- c) capable of hybridizing to (a) or the complement thereof;
 - d) capable of hybridizing to a nucleic acid molecule comprising 50 to 200 or more consecutive nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence given in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO:31, SEQ ID NO:33, or SEQ ID NO:94 or the complement thereof;
 - e) complementary to (a), (b) or (c); and
 - f) which is the reverse complement of (a), (b) or (c).
 - g) . which is a functional part of (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) or (f) encoding a polypeptide that still exhibits an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase and regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin.
 - 9. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 8, comprising a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO:31, SEQ ID NO:33, and SEQ ID NO:94.
- 10. The nucleic acid molecule of anyone of claims 1 to 9, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is isolated from a *Streptomyces* strain.

- 11. The nucleic acid molecule of anyone of claims 1 to 10 further comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a tag which is linked to the P450 monooxygenase via a covalent bond.
- 12. A polypeptide that exhibits an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase and is capable of regioselectively oxidizing the alcohol at position 4" of a compound of formular (II)

$$\begin{array}{c} & & & \\ & &$$

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R₁-R₇ represent, independently of each other hydrogen or a substituent;

m is 0, 1 or 2;

n is 0, 1, 2 or 3; and

the bonds marked with A, B, C, D, E and F indicate, independently of each other, that two adjacent carbon atoms are connected by a double bond, a single bond, a single bond and a epoxide bridge of the formula

, or a single bond and a methylene bridge of the formula

including, where applicable, an E/Z isomer, a mixture of E/Z isomers, and/or a tautomer thereof, in each case in free form or in salt form,

in order to produce a compound of the formula (III)

wherein

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R₁-R₇, m, n, A, B, C, D, E and F have the same meanings as given for formula (II) above.

- 13. A polypeptide that exhibits an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase and regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"keto-avermectin.
- 14. The polypeptide of claims 12 or 13 that comprises an amino acid sequence that is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule
 - a) as given in SEQ ID NO:1 or the complement thereof;
- b) having substantial similarity to (a);
 - c) capable of hybridizing to (a) or the complement thereof;

- d) capable of hybridizing to a nucleic acid molecule comprising 50 to 200 or more consecutive nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence given in SEQ ID NO:1, or the complement thereof;
- e) complementary to (a), (b) or (c);

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- f) which is the reverse complement of (a), (b) or (c); or
- g) which is a functional part of (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) or (f) encoding a polypeptide that still exhibits an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase and regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin.
- 15. The polypeptide of claims 12 to 14, comprising an amino acid sequence that is at least 50% identical to SEQ ID NO:2.
 - 16. The polypeptide of claims 12 or 13 comprising an amino acid sequence that is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule
 - a) as given in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO:31, SEQ ID NO:33, or SEQ ID NO:94 or the complement thereof;
 - b) having substantial similarity to (a);
 - c) capable of hybridizing to (a) or the complement thereof;
 - d) capable of hybridizing to a nucleic acid molecule comprising 50 to 200 or more consecutive nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence given in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO:31, SEQ ID NO:33, or SEQ ID NO:94 or the complement thereof, or the complement thereof;
 - e) complementary to (a), (b) or (c);
 - f) which is the reverse complement of (a), (b) or (c); or

g) which is a functional part of (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) or (f) encoding a polypeptide that still exhibits an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase and regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"-keto-avermectin.

PCT/EP02/05363

17. The polypeptide of claim 16, comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:30, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO:34, and SEQ ID NO:95.

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- 18. The polypeptide of anyone of claims 12 to 17, further comprising a tag.
- 19. A binding agent that specifically binds to the polypeptide of anyone of claims 12 to 18.
- 15 20. The binding agent of claim 20, wherein the binding agent is an antibody.
 - 21. A family of polypeptides exhibiting an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase, wherein each member of the family is capable of regioselectively oxidizing the alcohol at position 4" of a compound of formular (II)

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HO
$$A$$
 $R1$
 $R2$
 $R3$
 $R4$
 $R4$
 $R5$
 $R5$
 $R7$
 $R1$
 $R1$
 $R1$
 $R2$
 $R3$
 $R4$
 $R4$
 $R5$
 $R5$
 $R7$

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R₁-R₇ represent, independently of each other hydrogen or a substituent;

m is 0, 1 or 2;

n is 0, 1, 2 or 3; and

the bonds marked with A, B, C, D, E and F indicate, independently of each other, that two adjacent carbon atoms are connected by a double bond, a single bond, a single bond and a epoxide bridge of the formula

, or a single bond and a methylene bridge of the formula

including, where applicable, an $E\!/\!Z$ isomer, a mixture of $E\!/\!Z$ isomers, and/or a tautomer

thereof, in each case in free form or in salt form,

in order to produce a compound of the formula (III)

$$\begin{array}{c} & & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & &$$

R₁-R₇, m, n, A, B, C, D, E and F have the same meanings as given for formula (II) above.

- 5 22. A family of polypeptides exhibiting an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase, wherein each member of the family oxidizes avermed in to 4"keto-avermed in.
 - 23. The family of claims 21 or 22, wherein each member of the family is comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 50% identical to SEQ ID NO:2.

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24. A purified nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide exhibiting an enzymatic activity of a ferredoxin and a ferredoxin reductase, respectively, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is isolated from a *Streptomyces* strain comprising a P450 monooxygenase that is capable of regioselectively oxidizing the alcohol at position 4" of a compound of formular (II)

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R₁-R₇ represent, independently of each other hydrogen or a substituent;

m is 0, 1 or 2;

n is 0, 1, 2 or 3; and

the bonds marked with A, B, C, D, E and F indicate, independently of each other, that two adjacent carbon atoms are connected by a double bond, a single bond, a single bond and a epoxide bridge of the formula

, or a single bond and a methylene bridge of the formula

including, where applicable, an E/Z isomer, a mixture of E/Z isomers, and/or a tautomer thereof, in each case in free form or in salt form,

in order to produce a compound of the formula (III)

R₁-R₇, m, n, A, B, C, D, E and F have the same meanings as given for formula (II) above.

5 25. A purified nucleic acid molecule according to claim 24 comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide exhibiting an enzymatic activity of a ferredoxin and a ferredoxin reductase, respectively, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is isolated from a *Streptomyces* strain comprising a P450 monooxygenase that regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"keto-avermectin.

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26. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 25, comprising a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:35 and SEQ ID NO:37.

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27. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 25, comprising a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:98, SEQ ID NO:100, SEQ ID NO:102, and SEQ ID NO:104.

28. A polypeptide exhibiting an enzymatic activity of a ferredoxin and a ferredoxin reductase, respectively, wherein the polypeptide is isolated from a *Streptomyces* strain comprising a

P450 monooxygenase that is capable of regioselectively oxidizing the alcohol at position 4" of a compound of formular (II)

$$\begin{array}{c} & & & \\ & &$$

wherein

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R₁-R₇ represent, independently of each other hydrogen or a substituent;

m is 0, 1 or 2;

n is 0, 1, 2 or 3; and

the bonds marked with A, B, C, D, E and F indicate, independently of each other, that two adjacent carbon atoms are connected by a double bond, a single bond, a single bond and a epoxide bridge of the formula

, or a single bond and a methylene bridge of the formula

including, where applicable, an E/Z isomer, a mixture of E/Z isomers, and/or a tautomer thereof, in each case in free form or in salt form,

in order to produce a compound of the formula (III)

$$\begin{array}{c} & & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & &$$

wherein

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R₁-R₇, m, n, A, B, C, D, E and F have the same meanings as given for formula (II) above.

- 29. A polypeptide exhibiting an enzymatic activity of a ferredoxin and a ferredoxin reductase, respectively, wherein the ferredoxin protein is isolated from a *Streptomyces* strain comprising a P450 monooxygenase that regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"keto-avermectin.
- 30. The ferredoxin protein of claim 29, comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:36 and SEQ ID NO:38.
- 31. The ferredoxin reductase protein of claim 29, comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:99, SEQ ID NO:101, SEQ ID NO:103, and SEQ ID NO:105.

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- 32. A cell genetically engineered to comprise a nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide that exhibits an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase according to anyone of claims 1 to 11.
- 5 33. The cell of claim 32 further comprising a nucleic acid molecule encoding a ferredoxin protein and a ferredoxin reductrase protein, respectively, or a combination thereof.
 - 34. The cell of claims 32 or 33, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is positioned for expression in the cell.
- 35. The cell of anyone of claims 32 to 34, wherein the cell is a genetically engineered cell selected from the group consisting of a *Streptomyces* strain cell and a *Pseudomona strain* cell, and an *Escherichia coli* strain cell.
- 15 36. The cell of claim 35, wherein the cell has NRRL Designation No. B-30478 and NRRL Designation No.B-30479, respectively.
 - 37. A method for the preparation a compound of the formula

in which

5

R₁-R₉ represent, independently of each other hydrogen or a substituent;

m is 0, 1 or 2;

n is 0, 1, 2 or 3; and

the bonds marked with A, B, C, D, E and F indicate, independently of each other, that two adjacent carbon atoms are connected by a double bond, a single bond and a epoxide bridge of the formula

$$\begin{array}{c|c} H & O & H \end{array}$$

, or a single bond and a methylene bridge of the formula

$$\begin{array}{c|c} H_2 \\ \hline \\ C \\ \end{array} H$$

including, where applicable, an E/Z isomer, a mixture of E/Z isomers, and/or a tautomer thereof, in each case in free form or in salt form,

which process comprises

1) bringing a compound of the formula

5

10

15

R₁-R₇, m, n, A, B, C, D, E and F have the same meanings as given for formula (I) above, into contact with a polypeptide according to the invention that is capable of regioselectively oxidising the alcohol at position 4" in order to form a compound of the formula

95

$$\begin{array}{c} & & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & &$$

in which R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , R_6 , R_7 , m, n, A, B, C, D, E and F have the meanings given for formula (I); and

2) reacting the compound of the formula (III) with an amine of the formula $HN(R_8)R_9$, wherein R_8 and R_9 have the same meanings as given for formula (I), and which is known, in the presence of a reducing agent;

and, in each case, if desired, converting a compound of formula (I) obtainable in accordance with the process or by another method, or an E/Z isomer or tautomer thereof, in each case in free form or in salt form, into a different compound of formula (I) or an E/Z isomer or tautomer thereof, in each case in free form or in salt form, separating a mixture of E/Z isomers obtainable in accordance with the process and isolating the desired isomer, and/or converting a free compound of formula (I) obtainable in accordance with the process or by another method, or an E/Z isomer or tautomer thereof, into a salt or converting a salt, obtainable in accordance with the process or by another

method, of a compound of formula (I) or of an E/Z isomer or tautomer thereof into the free compound of formula (I) or an E/Z isomer or tautomer thereof or into a different salt.

5 38. A method for the preparation of a compound of the formula

$$\begin{array}{c} & & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & \\ & & & \\ &$$

in which R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , R_6 , R_7 , m, n, A, B, C, D, E and F have the meanings given for formula (III) of claim 37,

which process comprises

1) bringing a compound of the formula

$$\begin{array}{c} & & & \\ & &$$

5

R₁-R₇, m, n, A, B, C, D, E and F have the same meanings as given for formula (I) above, into contact with a polypeptide according to the invention that is capable of regioselectively oxidising the alcohol at position 4", maintaining said contact for a time sufficient for the oxidation reaction to occur and isolating and purifying the compound of formula (II).

- 39. A method according to anyone of claims 37 or 38 for making emamectin, comprising adding a polypeptide that exhibits an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase and regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"keto-avermectin to a reaction mixture comprising avermectin and incubating the reaction mixture under conditions that allow the polypeptide to regioselectively oxidize avermectin to 4"keto-avermectin.
- 15 40. The method of anyone of claims 37 to 39, wherein the reaction mixture further comprises a ferredoxin protein.
 - 41. The method of anyone of claims 37 to 40, wherein the reaction mixture further comprises a ferredoxin reductase protein.

- 42. A formulation for making emamectin comprising a polypeptide that exhibits an enzymatic activity of a P450 monooxygenase and regioselectively oxidizes avermectin to 4"keto-avermectin.
- 43. The formulation of claims 42 further comprising a ferredoxin protein.

5

44. The formulation of claim 42 or 43 further comprising a ferredoxin reductase protein.

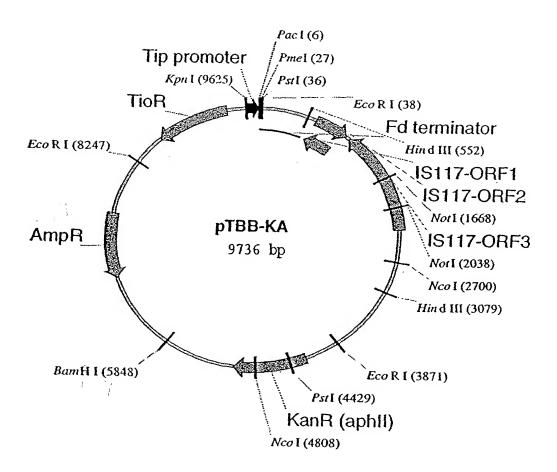


Figure 1

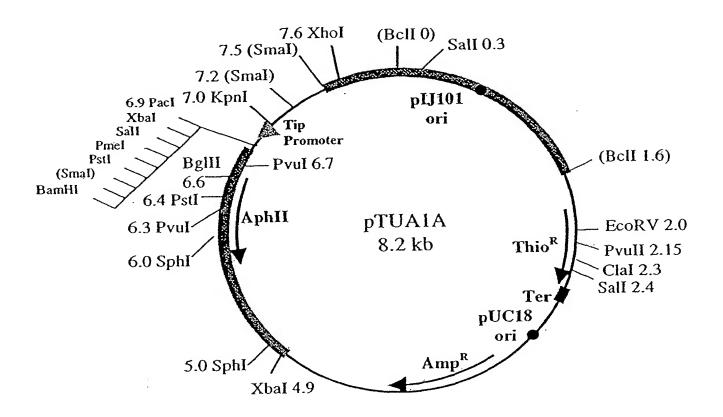


Figure 2



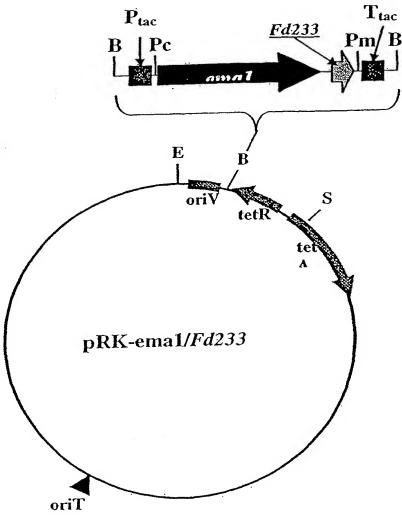


Figure 3

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PCT/EP02/05363 WO 02/092801

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PCT/EP02/05363 WO 02/092801

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Met Leu Gly Leu Pro Glu His Leu Arg Val Tyr Met Leu Gly Ser Ile
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Leu Asn Tyr Asp Ala Pro Asp His Thr Arg Leu Arg Arg Leu Val Ser
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Gln Ile Ala Asp Glu Leu Leu Ala Arg Leu Pro Glu Tyr Ala Glu Asp
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Gly Val Val	Asp Leu	Ile Gln	His F	Phe Ala	Tyr	Pro	Leu	Pro	Ile	Thr	
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Val Ile Cys	Glu Leu	Val Gly	Ile F	Pro Glu	Ala	Asp	Arg	Pro	Gln	Trp	
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225	1114 1164	230	1.000 -	Joa Lea	235	014	шса		14.9	240	
His Asp Asp	Acn Clar		Len S	Ser Acn		Clu	Mot	₹ <i>7</i> ⊃7	ጥኮሎ		
dan dan	245	Gry Frig	LCa D	250	va.	OLU	1700	Val	255	Mec	
Tlo Iou Thr		T 011 7 7 7	Cl., 11		mbx	mb	77.	TT-1 ~		T1.	
Ile Leu Thr		neu Ara			TILL	TITE	Ala		ьeu	тте	
C 7 Cl	260	3.T. T		265	-	_	~7	270	_	~	
Ser Asn Gly	Inr Ala	Ala Leu		nr His	Pro	Asp		Leu	Arg	Leu	
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385		390		-1 -1-	395			11	~ J ~	400	
Glu Met Ser			Pro G	llu Ara		Glu	Ara	T.eu	Pro		
OLG ILCO DCL	405	110 014	110 0	410	пси	OLU	ш9	шси	415	ncu	
Pro Cly Acn		Leu Aen	Sor I		T.OU	720	LOU	Clar	417		
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ought grage	ggaccgga	c gagaag	9000	LLCCLY	Juga	cyat	cyac	u u	٠٠٠٠	augug	550

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Gln Ile Ala Asp Glu Leu Leu Ala Arg Leu Pro Glu His Ala Glu Asp

Gly Val Val Asp Leu Ile Gln His Phe Ala Tyr Pro Leu Pro Ile Thr

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90 95

155

125

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Gly Asn Gly Thr Ala Ala Leu Leu Thr His Pro Asp Gln Leu Arg Leu

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Val Gly Phe Gly His Gly Ala His Tyr Cys Leu Gly Ala Thr Leu Ala
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Pro	Gly	Glu	Pro 20	His	Val	Met	Asp	Pro 25	Ala	Leu	Ile	Ser	Asp 30	Pro	Phe
Gly	Gly	Tyr 35	Gly	Ala	Leu	Arg	Glu 40	Gln	Gly	Pro	Val	Val 45	Arg	Gly	Arg
Phe	Phe 50	Asp	Asp	Ser	Pro	Leu 55	Trp	Leu	Val	Thr	Arg 60	Phe	Glu	Glu	Val
Arg 65	Gln	Va1	Leu	Arg	Asp 70	Gln	Arg	Phe	Val	Asn 75	Asn	Pro	Ala	Asp	Pro 80
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Phe Gly Phe Gly Val His Gln Cys
<210> 56
<211> 24
<212> DNA
<213> Artificial Sequence
<220>
<221> misc_feature
<222> (6)..(15)
<223> Nucleotides 6, 12, and 15 are "s" wherein "s" = g or c.
<400> 56
aaggcsaagc cscasgtggt cacg
                                                                      24
<210> 57
<211> 8
<212> PRT
<213> Streptomyces
<220>
<221> misc_feature
<222>
<223> Streptomyces consensus sequence
<400> 57
Phe Gly His Gly Ile His Gln Cys
<210> 58
<211> 24
<212> DNA
<213> Artificial Sequence
<220>
<221> misc_feature
<222> (6)..(12)
<223> Nucleotides 6 and 12 are "s" wherein "s" = q or c.
<400> 58
aagccsgtgc cstaggtggt cacg
                                                                      24
<210> 59
<211> 8
<212> PRT
<213> Streptomyces
<220>
<221> misc_feature
<222>
<223> Streptomyces consensus sequence
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<400> 59
Phe Gly His Gly Val His Phe Cys
                5
<210> 60
<211> 24
<212> DNA
<213> Artificial Sequence
<220>
<221> misc_feature
<222>
      (6)..(15)
<223> Nucleotides 6, 12, and 15 are "s" wherein "s" = g or c.
<400> 60
aagccsgtgc cscasgtgaa gacg
                                                                     24
<210> 61
<211> 24
<212> PRT
<213> Streptomyces tubercidicus
His Pro Gly Glu Pro Asn Val Met Asp Pro Ala Leu Ile Thr Asp Pro
                                   10
Phe Thr Gly Tyr Gly Ala Leu Arg
            20
<210> 62
<211> 21
<212> PRT
<213> Streptomyces tubercidicus
<400> 62
Phe Val Asn Asn Pro Ala Ser Pro Ser Leu Asn Tyr Ala Pro Glu Asp
                                   10
                                                       15
Asn Pro Leu Thr Arg
            20
<210> 63
<211> 19
<212> PRT
<213> Streptomyces tubercidicus
<400> 63
Leu Leu Thr His Tyr Pro Asp Ile Ser Leu Gly Ile Ala Pro Glu His
                                   10
Leu Glu Arg
```

```
<210> 64
<211> 17
<212> PRT
<213> Streptomyces tubercidicus
<400> 64
Val Tyr Leu Leu Gly Ser Ile Leu Asn Tyr Asp Ala Pro Asp His Thr
                5
                                     10
Arg
<210> 65
<211> 13
<212> PRT
<213> Streptomyces tubercidicus
<400> 65
Thr Trp Gly Ala Asp Leu Ile Ser Met Asp Pro Asp Arg
<210> 66
<211> 13
<212> PRT
<213> Streptomyces tubercidicus
Glu Ala Leu Thr Asp Asp Leu Leu Ser Glu Leu Ile Arg
                                     10
<210> 67 <211> 12
<212> PRT
<213> Streptomyces tubercidicus
<400> 67
Phe Met Asp Asp Ser Pro Val Trp Leu Val Thr Arg
                5
<210> 68
<211> 12
<212> PRT
<213> Streptomyces tubercidicus
<400> 68
Leu Met Glu Met Leu Gly Leu Pro Glu His Leu Arg
                                     10
<210> 69
```

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<211> 11
<212> PRT
<213> Streptomyces tubercidicus
<400> 69
Val Glu Gln Ile Ala Asp Ala Leu Leu Ala Arg
<210> 70
<211> 11
<212> PRT
<213> Streptomyces tubercidicus
<400> 70
Leu Val Lys Asp Asp Pro Ala Leu Leu Pro Arg
               5
<210> 71
<211> 8
<212> PRT
<213> Streptomyces tubercidicus
<400> 71
Asp Asp Pro Ala Leu Leu Pro Arg
<210> 72
<211> 8
<212> PRT
<213> Streptomyces tubercidicus
<400> 72
Thr Pro Leu Pro Gly Asn Trp Arg
               5
<210> 73
<211> 7
<212> PRT
<213> Streptomyces tubercidicus
<400> 73
Leu Asn Ser Leu Pro Val Arg
<210> 74
<211> 7
<212> PRT
<213> Streptomyces tubercidicus
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```
<400> 74
Ile Thr Asp Leu Arg Pro Arg
                5
<210> 75
<211> 7
<212> PRT
<213> Streptomyces tubercidicus
<400> 75
Glu Gln Gly Pro Val Val Arg
<210> 76
<211> 7
<212> PRT
<213> Streptomyces tubercidicus
<400> 76
Ala Val His Glu Leu Met Arg
1
<210> 77
<211> 5
<212> PRT
<213> Streptomyces tubercidicus
<400> 77
Ala Phe Thr Ala Arg
               5
<210> 78
<211> 5
<212> PRT
<213> Streptomyces tubercidicus
<400> 78
Phe Glu Glu Val Arg
<210> 79
<211> 7
<212> PRT
<213> Streptomyces tubercidicus
<400> 79
Pro Gly Glu Asp Asn Val Met
               5
```

```
<210> 80
<211> 21
<212> DNA
<213> Artificial Sequence
<220>
<221> misc_feature
<220>
<221> misc_feature
<222> (9)..(9)
<223> Nucleotide 9 is "r" wherein "r" = a or g.
<220>
<221> misc_feature <222> (15)..(15)
<223> Nucleotide 15 is "y" wherein "y" = c or t.
<400> 80
ccsggsgarc csaaygtsat g
                                                                 21
<210> 81
<211> 7
<212> PRT
<213> Streptomyces tubercidicus
<400> 81
Ala Leu Ile Thr Asp Pro Phe
             5
<210> 82
<211> 21
<212> DNA
<213> Artificial Sequence
<220>
<221> misc_feature
<222> (3)..(18)
<223> Nucleotides 3, 6, 12, and 18 are "s"wherein "s" = c or g.
<400> 82
gcsctsatya csgacccstt c
                                                                 21
<210> 83
<211> 8
<212> PRT
<213> Streptomyces tubercidicus
<400> 83
Phe Met Asp Asp Ser Pro Val Trp
```

```
<210> 84
<211> 24
<212> DNA
<213> Artificial Sequence
<220>
<221> misc_feature
<222> (13)..(13)
<223> Nucleotide 13 is "w" wherein "w" = a or t.
<220>
<221> misc_feature
<222> (14)..(21)
<223> Nucleotides 14, 15, 18, and 21 are "s" wherein "s" = c or g.
<400> 84
                                                                       24
ttcatggacg acwssccsgt stgg
<210> 85
<211> 8
<212> PRT
<213> Streptomyces tubercidicus
<400> 85
Leu Asn Tyr Asp Ala Pro Asp His
<210> 86
<211> 24
<212> DNA
<213> Artificial Sequence
<220>
<221> misc_feature
<222> (3)..(18)
<223> Nucleotides 3, 15 and 18 are "s" wherein "s" = c or g.
<220>
<221> misc_feature
<222> (6)..(9)
<223> Nucleotides 6 and 9 are "y" wherein "y" = c or t.
<400> 86
                                                                       24
ctsaaytayg acgcsccsga ccac
<210> 87
<211> 8
<212> PRT
<213> Streptomyces tubercidicus
<400> 87
Val Glu Gln Ile Ala Asp Ala Leu
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```
<210> 88
<211> 24
<212> DNA
<213> Artificial Sequence
<220>
<221> misc_feature
<222> (3)..(24) <223> Nucleotides 3, 15, 21, and 24 are "s" wherein "s" = c or g.
<220>
<221> misc_feature
<222> (12)..(12)
<223> Nucleotide 12 is "y" wherein "y" = c or t.
<220>
<221> misc_feature <222> (6)..(6)
<223> Nucleotide 6 is "r" wherein "r" = a or g.
<400> 88
gtsgarcaga tygcsgacgc scts
                                                                           24
<210> 89
<211> 8
<212> PRT
<213> Streptomyces tubercidicus
<400> 89
Asp Leu Ile Ser Met Asp Pro Asp
<210> 90
<211> 24
<212> DNA
<213> Artificial Sequence
<220>
<221> misc_feature
<222> (6)..(21)
<223> Nucleotides 6, 11, 12, and 21 are "s" wherein "s" = c or g.
<220>
<221> misc_feature
<222> (9)..(9)
<223> Nucleotide 9 is "r" wherein "r" = a or g.
<220>
<221> misc_feature
<222> (10)..(10)
<223> Nucleotide 10 is "w" wherein "w" = a or t.
<400> 90
ctggastarw sstacctggg sctg
                                                                           24
<210> 91
<211> 36
```

```
<212> DNA
<213> Streptomyces tubercidicus
<400> 91
agattaatta atgtcggaat taatgaactg tccgtt
                                                                      36
<210> 92
<211> 32
<212> DNA
<213> Streptomyces tubercidicus
<400> 92
aaactcaccc caaccgcacc ggcagcgagt tc
                                                                      32
<210> 93
<211> 7
<212> PRT
<213> Streptomyces tubercidicus
<400> 93
Met Ser Glu Leu Met Asn Ser
                5
<210> 94
<211> 1293
<212> DNA
<213> Streptomyces tubercidicus
<400> 94
atgteggeaa tateeagete eeegttegee geacaegteg gaaageatee eggegageeg 60
aatgtgatgg acceggeget gateacegae eegtteggeg getaeggege actgegtgag 120
caaggeeeg teetaeeggg eeggtteatg gacgaeteae eegtetgget egtgaegege 180
ttcgaagagg tccgccaagt cctgcgcgat cagcggttcc tgaacaaccc ggccgcgtcg 240
tcaccggggc attcgatcga cgagagcccc acggccaggc tgctggacat gatggggatg 300
cccgaacatt tccggccgta tctgatgggg tcgatcctca acaacgacgc ccccgaccac 360
acceggetge geogtetggt gteacgegeg tteacggeac geaagateac egatetgegg 420
ccgcgggtcg agcagctcgc cgacgagctg ctggcccggc ttcccgagca cgccgaggac 480
ggtgtggtcg acctgatcaa gcacttcgcc tatcccctgc cgatcaccgt gatctgcgaa 540
ctggtcggca tcccggaagc ggaccgcccg caatggcgga agtggggcgc cgacctcgtt 600
tegetgeage eggagegget eageaceteg tteeeggega tgategagea eatecatgaa 660
ctgatccgcg agcggcgcgg cgcgctcacc gacgatctgc tcagcgagct gatccgtacc 720
catgacgacg acggcagccg gctcagcgac gtcgagatgg tcaccatggt cctcaccgtc 780
gteetggeeg geeacgagae cacegeecae etgataggea aeggeacgge ggegetgete 840
acceacceg accagetgeg cetggteaag gacgaccegg agetgettee gegtgeegte 900
cacgagetge tgegetggtg egggeeggte cagatgacee agetgeggta egeeteegag 960
gatgtcgaga tcgccgggac gccgatccgt aagggcgacg ccgtacaact catcctggta 1020
teggegaact tegaceeeg ceactacaee geeeegaac geetegaeet gaceegeeae 1080
cccgccggcc acgccgagaa ccatgtgggc ttcggccacg gaatgcacta ctgcctgggc 1140
gccacceteg ccaaacagga gggcgaagte gcgtteggca agetetteae gcactaceeg 1200
gagetgtege tggeegtege aceggaegag ttggagegaa egeeggtgee eggeagetgg 1260
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cggttggatt cgctgccggt gcggttgggg tga

1293

<210> 95 <211> 430 <212> PRT <213> Streptomyces tubercidicus

<400> 95 Met Ser Ala Ile Ser Ser Ser Pro Phe Ala Ala His Val Gly Lys His Pro Gly Glu Pro Asn Val Met Asp Pro Ala Leu Ile Thr Asp Pro Phe 25 Gly Gly Tyr Gly Ala Leu Arg Glu Gln Gly Pro Val Leu Pro Gly Arg 40 Phe Met Asp Asp Ser Pro Val Trp Leu Val Thr Arg Phe Glu Glu Val Arg Gln Val Leu Arg Asp Gln Arg Phe Leu Asn Asn Pro Ala Ala Ser 70 Ser Pro Gly His Ser Ile Asp Glu Ser Pro Thr Ala Arg Leu Leu Asp Met Met Gly Met Pro Glu His Phe Arg Pro Tyr Leu Met Gly Ser Ile 100 105 Leu Asn Asn Asp Ala Pro Asp His Thr Arg Leu Arg Arg Leu Val Ser 120 Arg Ala Phe Thr Ala Arg Lys Ile Thr Asp Leu Arg Pro Arg Val Glu 135 140 Gln Leu Ala Asp Glu Leu Leu Ala Arg Leu Pro Glu His Ala Glu Asp 150 155 Gly Val Val Asp Leu Ile Lys His Phe Ala Tyr Pro Leu Pro Ile Thr 165 170 Val Ile Cys Glu Leu Val Gly Ile Pro Glu Ala Asp Arg Pro Gln Trp 180 185 Arg Lys Trp Gly Ala Asp Leu Val Ser Leu Gln Pro Glu Arg Leu Ser 200 Thr Ser Phe Pro Ala Met Ile Glu His Ile His Glu Leu Ile Arg Glu 215 220 Arg Arg Gly Ala Leu Thr Asp Asp Leu Leu Ser Glu Leu Ile Arg Thr His Asp Asp Asp Gly Ser Arg Leu Ser Asp Val Glu Met Val Thr Met 250 Val Leu Thr Val Val Leu Ala Gly His Glu Thr Thr Ala His Leu Ile 265 Gly Asn Gly Thr Ala Ala Leu Leu Thr His Pro Asp Gln Leu Arg Leu 280 285 Val Lys Asp Asp Pro Glu Leu Leu Pro Arg Ala Val His Glu Leu Leu 295 300 Arg Trp Cys Gly Pro Val Gln Met Thr Gln Leu Arg Tyr Ala Ser Glu 315 310 Asp Val Glu Ile Ala Gly Thr Pro Ile Arg Lys Gly Asp Ala Val Gln 325 330 Leu Ile Leu Val Ser Ala Asn Phe Asp Pro Arg His Tyr Thr Ala Pro 345

```
Glu Arg Leu Asp Leu Thr Arg His Pro Ala Gly His Ala Glu Asn His
        355
                             360
Val Gly Phe Gly His Gly Met His Tyr Cys Leu Gly Ala Thr Leu Ala
    370
                        375
                                             380
Lys Gln Glu Gly Glu Val Ala Phe Gly Lys Leu Phe Thr His Tyr Pro
385
                                         395
Glu Leu Ser Leu Ala Val Ala Pro Asp Glu Leu Glu Arg Thr Pro Val
                405
                                     410
Pro Gly Ser Trp Arg Leu Asp Ser Leu Pro Val Arg Leu Gly
            420
                                 425
                                                     430
<210> 96
<211> 18
<212> DNA
<213> Artificial Sequence
<400> 96
cgsccsccsc tswssaas
                                                                   18
<210> 97
<211> 21
<212> DNA
<213> Artificial Sequence
<400> 97
sassgestts beccartgyt c
                                                                   21
<210> 98
<211> 1266
<212> DNA
<213> Streptomyces tubercidicus
<400> 98
gtggtcgacg cacaccagac gttcgtcatc gtcgggggtg gcctggccgg cgcaaaggcc 60
gcggagactc tccgcgcgga ggggttcacc ggccgggtga tcctcatctg tgacgagcgc 120
gaccacccgt acgagegeec eccgetetee aaggggttee tgeteggeaa ggaagagege 180
gacagcgtgt tcgtccatga gcccgcctgg tacgcccagg cacagatcga actgcacctg 240
ggccagcccg ccgtccgcct cgaccccgag ggcaggaccg tccgcctcgg cgacggcacc 300
ctgatcgcct acgacaagct gctgctggcc accggcgccg aaccgcggcg cctggacatc 360
cccggcaccg gcctggccgg cgtgcaccac ctgcgccgcc tcgcccacqc cgaacggctq 420
cgcggcgtcc tggcctccct cggccgcgac aacggccatc tggtgatcgc cggagccggc 480
tggatcggcc tggaggtcgc cgccgcggcc cgctcctacg gcgccgaggt gaccgtcgtc 540
gaggeegeee egacgeeget geacggeate etggggeeeg aacteggegg tetgtteace 600
gatetgeace gegageaegg egteegette eactteggeg eeegetteae egagategte 660
ggagaggcg gcatggtgct cgccgtgcgc accgacgacg gcgaggaaca ccccgccac 720
gatgtgctcg ccgcgatcgg cgccgccccg cgcaccgcgc tcgccgaaca ggccgggctg 780
gatetegeeg acceggagae eggeggeggg gtggeegteg acgeggeget gegeacetee 840
gacccgtaca totacgccgc cggtgacqtc gccgccgccg accacccgct gctggacacc 900
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cggctgcggg tcgaacactg ggccaacgcc ctcaacggcg gcccggccgc cgccgcgcc 960 atgctcggcc aggacatcag ctacgaccgc atcccgtact tcttctccga ccagtacgac 1020 gtcggcatgg agtactccgg ctacgcccg cccggctcgt acgcccaggt cgtctgccgc 1080 ggcgacgtcg ccaagcggga gttcatcgcc ttctggctgg cggcggacgg ccggctgctc 1140 gcgggcatga acgtcaacgt ctgggacgtc gccgagtcca tccagcaact catccgctcc 1200 ggggcgcgt tggagccgg cgcactggcc gatccgcagg ttccgctggc ggcactgctc 1260 ccgtag
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<210> 99

<211> 421

<212> PRT

<213> Streptomyces tubercidicus

<400> 99

Val Val Asp Ala His Gln Thr Phe Val Ile Val Gly Gly Leu Ala 1.0 Gly Ala Lys Ala Ala Glu Thr Leu Arg Ala Glu Gly Phe Thr Gly Arg 25 Val Ile Leu Ile Cys Asp Glu Arg Asp His Pro Tyr Glu Arg Pro Pro Leu Ser Lys Gly Phe Leu Leu Gly Lys Glu Glu Arg Asp Ser Val Phe Val His Glu Pro Ala Trp Tyr Ala Gln Ala Gln Ile Glu Leu His Leu Gly Gln Pro Ala Val Arg Leu Asp Pro Glu Gly Arg Thr Val Arg Leu 90 Gly Asp Gly Thr Leu Ile Ala Tyr Asp Lys Leu Leu Ala Thr Gly 105 Ala Glu Pro Arg Arg Leu Asp Ile Pro Gly Thr Gly Leu Ala Gly Val 120 His His Leu Arg Arg Leu Ala His Ala Glu Arg Leu Arg Gly Val Leu 135 140 Ala Ser Leu Gly Arg Asp Asn Gly His Leu Val Ile Ala Gly Ala Gly 150 155 Trp Ile Gly Leu Glu Val Ala Ala Ala Ala Arg Ser Tyr Gly Ala Glu 170 165 Val Thr Val Val Glu Ala Ala Pro Thr Pro Leu His Gly Ile Leu Gly 185 Pro Glu Leu Gly Gly Leu Phe Thr Asp Leu His Arg Glu His Gly Val 200 Arg Phe His Phe Gly Ala Arg Phe Thr Glu Ile Val Gly Glu Gly Gly 215 Met Val Leu Ala Val Arg Thr Asp Asp Gly Glu His Pro Ala His 235 230 Asp Val Leu Ala Ala Ile Gly Ala Ala Pro Arg Thr Ala Leu Ala Glu 250 Gln Ala Gly Leu Asp Leu Ala Asp Pro Glu Thr Gly Gly Gly Val Ala 265 Val Asp Ala Ala Leu Arg Thr Ser Asp Pro Tyr Ile Tyr Ala Ala Gly 280 Asp Val Ala Ala Ala Asp His Pro Leu Leu Asp Thr Arg Leu Arg Val 290 295 300

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Glu His Trp Ala Asn Ala Leu Asn Gly Gly Pro Ala Ala Ala Arg Ala
                    310
                                         315
Met Leu Gly Gln Asp Ile Ser Tyr Asp Arg Ile Pro Tyr Phe Phe Ser
                                    330
Asp Gln Tyr Asp Val Gly Met Glu Tyr Ser Gly Tyr Ala Pro Pro Gly
                                345
Ser Tyr Ala Gln Val Val Cys Arg Gly Asp Val Ala Lys Arg Glu Phe
                            360
                                                 365
Ile Ala Phe Trp Leu Ala Ala Asp Gly Arg Leu Leu Ala Gly Met Asn
                        375
                                             380
Val Asn Val Trp Asp Val Ala Glu Ser Ile Gln Gln Leu Ile Arg Ser
                    390
                                        395
Gly Ala Pro Leu Glu Pro Gly Ala Leu Ala Asp Pro Gln Val Pro Leu
                405
                                    410
                                                         415
Ala Ala Leu Leu Pro
            420
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<210> 100 <211> 1314 <212> DNA <213> Streptomyces tubercidicus

<400> 100

atgecegetg caegeegeeg cettegacet eegeacegga geggegacet geetgeeege 60 ccgccgggcc gtgcgcaccc accccgtgac cgtccaggac ggcatgatct acgtccatca 120 cgccgcggag gagggcaccg ccgcatgaag tcggtcgctg tcatcggggc ctcgctggcg 180 ggcetgtacg ccgcgcggtc cctgcgttcc caggggttcg acggccgcct ggtgatcgtc 240 ggggacgagt gccacggccc ctacgaccgg cccccgctgt ccaaggactt cctcaccggc 300 gecacegace eggecegact egecetggee gaegeegagg agategeega actegaegee 360 gaatggctgc tgggcacccg ggccaccggg ctcgacaccg gcggacgcac ggtgctgctc 420 gatggeggec ggteeetgae caeegaegge gtggteeteg ceaeeggege egeeeegege 480 ctgeteceeg gaeeggtgee egeeggggte cacaceetge geaeectega egaegeeeag 540 gegeteegtg eggatetgge geeggegeeg gteegggteg tggtgategg eggeggette 600 ateggegeeg aggtegeete gteetgegee geectaggee atgaegteae egtggtegag 660 geogegeege teeceetegt eeceeaacte ggeoaegeea tggeogagat etgegeegee 720 ctgcatgcgg accacggcgt cacgctgctc accggaaccg gtgtcgcccg gctgcgcagc 780 gagggegaeg geeggeget caceggegte gagetgaeeg aeggeegeet geteeeegee 840 gacgtggteg tegteggeat eggggtaege eccegeaceg cetggeteae ggacteegga 900 ctgccgctcg acgacggtgt gctctgcgac gcgggctgtg tcaccccgct gcccgccgtc 960 gtggccgtcg gcgacgtcgc cagggtggac ggcgccgtg ccgagcactg gaccagcgcc 1020 accgaacagg ccgccgtggc ggcgcggaac ctgctggccg gcagcaccgt cgcgacccac 1080 cggagcctgc cgtacttctg gtccgaccag tacggcgtcc gcatccagtt cgcgggccac 1140 cggctgccca ccgacacacc gcgcgtcctc gaaggctccc ccgacgaccg cagcttcctc 1200 ttcatgcggc tccgccgcga actcgcccqc accqccctgt cggccaccac ctga 1314

<210> 101

<211> 437

<212> PRT

<213> Streptomyces tubercidicus

<40	0> 10	01													
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		Ala	20					25				_	30		
Gly	Arg	His 35	Asp	Leu	Arg	Pro	Ser 40	Arg	Arg	Gly	Gly	Gly 45	His	Arg	Arg
Met	Lys 50	Ser	Val ·	Ala	Val	Ile 55	Gly	Ala	Ser	Leu	Ala 60	Gly	Leu	Tyr	Ala
Ala 65	Arg	Ser	Leu	Arg	Ser 70	Gln	Gly	Phe	Asp	Gly 75	Arg	Leu	Val	Ile	Val 80
Gly	Asp	Glu	Cys	His 85	Gly	Pro	Tyr	Asp	Arg 90	Pro	Pro	Leu	Ser	Lys 95	Asp
Phe	Leu	Thr	Gly 100	Ala	Thr	Asp	Pro	Gly 105	Arg	Leu	Ala	Leu	Ala 110	Asp	Ala
Glu	Glu	Ile 115	Ala	Glu	Leu	Asp	Ala 120	Glu	Trp	Leu	Leu	Gly 125	Thr	Arg	Ala
	130	Leu			_	135					140	_	_	_	_
Ser 145	Leu	Thr	Thr	Asp	Gly 150	Val	Val	Leu	Ala	Thr 155	Gly	Ala	Ala	Pro	Arg 160
		Pro		165					170					175	
		Ala	180					185					190		
		Val 195					200					205			
	210	Ala				215					220				
225		Val			230					235					240
		Ala		245					250				_	255	
		Arg	260					265				-	270		
		Gly 275					280	_				285	_		_
	290	Pro				295					300				
305		Val			310					315					320
		Val		325					330					335	
		Ser	340					345					350		
		Ser 355					360					365			
	370	Tyr				375					380				
Asp 385	Thr	Pro	Arg	Val	Leu 390	Glu	Gly	Ser	Pro	Asp 395	Asp	Arg	Ser	Phe	Leu 400
Ala	Cys	Tyr	Glu	Arg 405	Asp	Gly	Arg	Thr	Thr 410	Ala	Val	Leu	Ala	Leu 415	Asn

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				85					90					95	
			Arg 100					105					110	_	
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305			Ala		310			_		315		_	_	_	320
Leu	Pro	Tyr	Phe	Phe 325	Thr	Asp	Gln	Tyr	Asp 330	Leu	Gly	Met	Glu	Tyr 335	Thr
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Leu	Ala 370	Gly	Met	Asn	Val	Asn 375	Val	Trp	Asp	Val	Thr 380	Asp	Pro	Ile	Arg
Ala 385	Leu	Val	Ala	Ser	Gly 390	Arg	Ala	Val	Asp	Pro 395	Glu	Arg	Leu	Ala	Asp 400
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<213> Streptomyces tubercidicus

<400> 104

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Val Val Asp Ala His Gln Thr Phe Val Ile Val Gly Gly Leu Ala

210	215		220	
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Asp Val Leu Ala	Ala Ile Gly 245	Ala Ala Pro 250	Arg Thr Ala	Leu Ala Glu 255
Gln Ala Gly Leu 260	_	Asp Pro Glu 265	Ala Gly Gly	Gly Val Ala 270
Val Asp Ala Thr 275	Leu Arg Thr	Ser Asp Pro 280	Tyr Ile Tyr 285	Ala Ala Gly
Asp Val Ala Ala 290	Ala Asp His 295	Pro Leu Leu	Asp Thr Arg	Leu Arg Val
Glu His Trp Ala 305	Asn Ala Leu 310	Asn Gly Gly	Pro Ala Ala 315	Ala Arg Ala 320
Met Leu Gly Gln	Asp Ile Ser 325	Tyr Asp Arg 330	Val Pro Tyr	Phe Phe Ser 335
Asp Gln Tyr Asp 340	Val Gly Met	Glu Tyr Ser 345	Gly Tyr Ala	Pro Pro Gly 350
Ser Tyr Ala Gln 355	Val Val Cys	Arg Gly Asp 360	Val Ala Lys 365	Arg Glu Phe
Ile Ala Phe Trp 370	Leu Gly Glu 375	Asp Gly Arg	Leu Leu Ala 380	Gly Met Asn
Val Asn Val Trp 385	Asp Val Ala 390	Glu Thr Ile	Gln Gln Leu 395	Ile Arg Gly 400
Gly Val Arg Leu	Glu Pro Gly 405	Glu Leu Ala 410	Asp Pro Glu	Val Pro Leu 415
Thr Ser Leu Leu 420	Pro			

BUDAPEST TREATY ON THE INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF THE DEPOSIT OF MICROORGANISMS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PATENT PROCEDURES

INTERNATIONAL FORM

TO

VIABILITY STATEMENT

Syngenta 3054 Cornwallis Road Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

issued pursuant to Rule 10.2 by the INTERNATIONAL DEPOSITARY AUTHORITY identified at the bottom of this rage

NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY TO WHOM THE VIABILITY STATEMENT IS ISSUED

THE VINDIBILI BINTEMENT IS ISSUED						
I. DEPOSITOR	II. IDENTIFICATION OF THE MICROORGANISH					
Name: Syngenta 3054 Cornwallie Road Address: Research Triangle Park, NC 27709	Depositor's taxonomic designation and accession number given by the INTERNATIONAL DEPOSITARY AUTHORITY: Streptomyces lividens NRRL 30478 Date of: May 8, 2001					
·	2 New Deposit 2 Repropagation of Original Deposit					
III. (a) VIABILITY STATEMENT						
Deposit was found: X Viable Nonviable on May 10, 2001 (Date) International Depositary Authority's preparation was found viable on May 18, 2:01[Date]						
III. (b) DEPOSITOR'S FOUTUALENCY DECLARATION						
Depositor determined the International Depositary Authority's preparation was 2 Equivalent 2 Not equivalent to deposit on 7/23/01 (Date) Signature of Depositor 2 Profile						
IV. CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE VIABILITY TEST WAS PERFORHED (Depositors/Depositary)						
V. INTERNATIONAL DEPOSITARY AUTHORITY						
Name: Agricultural Research Culture Collection (NRRL) International Depositary Authority	Signature(s) of person(s) having the power to represent the International Dépositary Authority or of authorized official(s):					
Address: 1815 N. University Street Peoria, Illinois 61604 U.S.A.	Date: 6-26-41					

Indicate the date of the original deposit or when a new deposit has been made.

^{*} Indicate the date of the original deposit of when a new deposit who were the applicable box.

Mark with a cross the applicable box.

In the cases referred to in Rule 10.2(a)(ii) and (iii), refer to the most recent visbility test.

Fill in if the information has been requested.

BUDAPEST TREATY ON THE INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF THE DEPOSIT OF MICROORGANISHS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PATENT PROCEDURES

INTERNATIONAL FORM

TO

VIABILITY STATEMENT

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NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY TO WHOM THE VIABILITY STATEMENT IS ISSUED

THE THE PERSON OF THE PERSON O						
I. DEPOSITOR	II. IDENTIFICATION OF THE MICROORGANISM					
Name: Syngenta 3054 Cornwallis Road Address: Research Triangle Park, NC 27709	Depositor's taxonomic designation and accession number given by the INTERNATIONAL DEPOSITARY AUTHORITY: Pseudomonas purida NRRL B-30479 Date of: May 8, 2001					
	X 2 Original Deposit					
	2 New Deposit					
	Repropagation of Original Deposit					
III. (a) VIABILITY STATEMENT						
Deposit was found: Viable Nonviable on May 10, 2001 (Date)						
International Depositary Authority's preparation was found viable on May 16 2031 (Date)						
III. (b) DEPOSITOR'S EQUIVALENCY DECLARATION						
Depositor determined the International Depositary Authority's preparation was						
Equivalent \Box_{2}^{2} Not equivalent to deposit on $\frac{7}{230}$ (Date)						
Signature of Depositor						
IV. CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE VIABILITY TEST WAS PERFORMED (Depositors/Depositary)						
V. INTERNATIONAL DEPOSITARY AUTHORITY						
Name: Agricultural Research Culture Collection (NRRL) International Depositary Authority	signature(s) of person(s) having the power to represent the International Depositary Authority or of authorized official(s):					
Address: 1815 N. University Street Peoria, Illinois 51604 U.S.A. Date: G. 26.01						
Peoria, Illinois 61604 U.S.A.	Date: 6.26-01					

Indicate the data of the original deposit or when a new deposit has been made.

Mark with a cross the applicable box.

In the cases referred to in Rule 10.2(a)(ii) and (iii), refer to the most recent viability test.

Fill in if the information has been requested.